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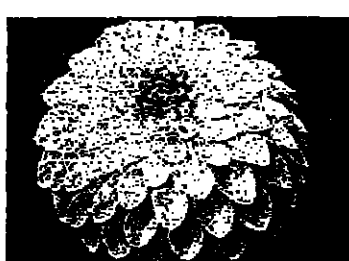
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Terrorist creates stir with Barak quote

By SARAH HOMIG
and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

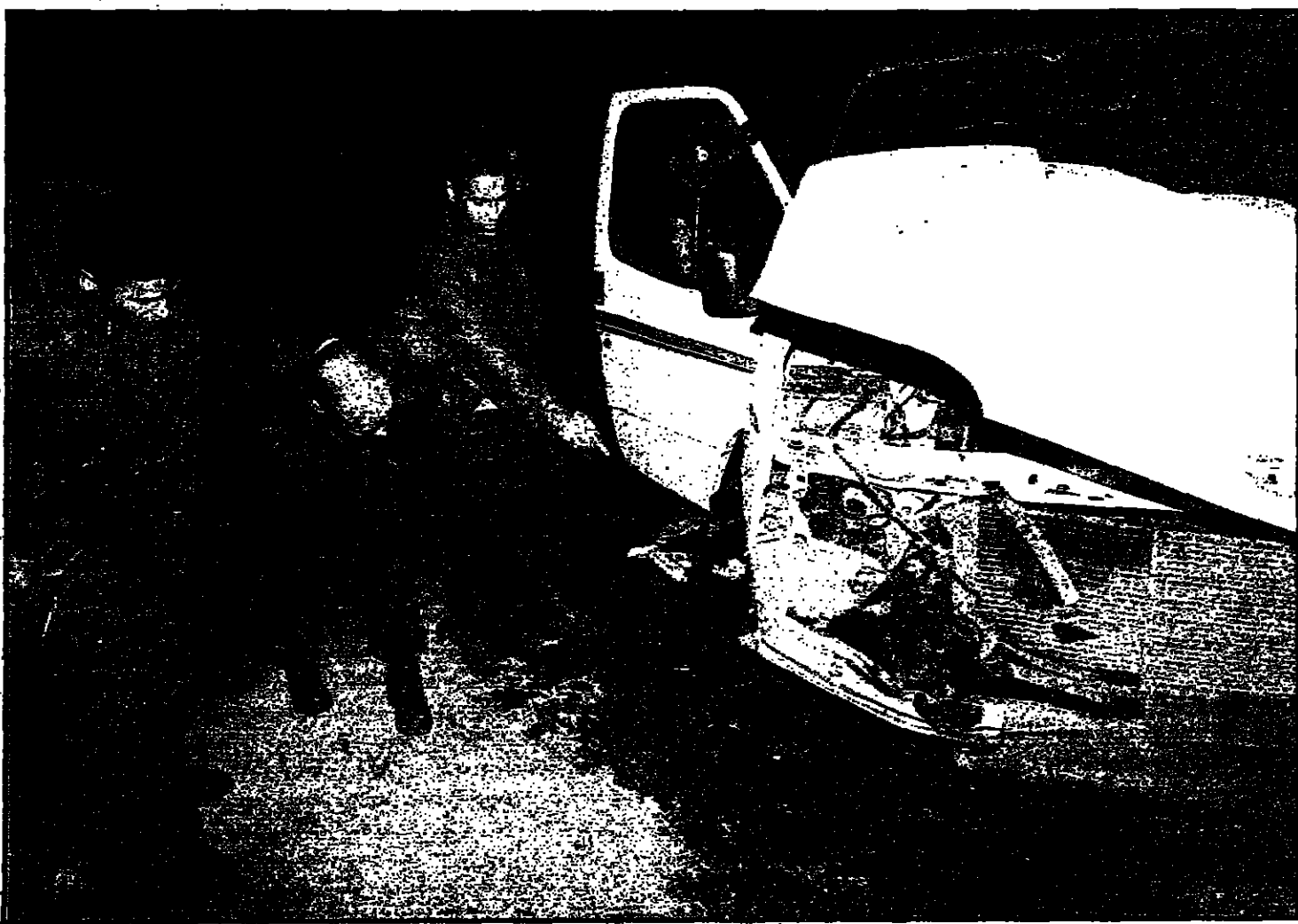
A Hamas terrorist on trial created a political flurry yesterday when he quoted Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak's remarks on TV last week that, were he a Palestinian youth, he would have joined a terrorist organization.

Iman Mahmud Kafshe, one of the members of the Tzurif cell, tried to justify his actions by quoting the comments made by Barak. "Barak said that if he had been a Palestinian, he would have been a soldier in Hamas, or Fatah, or Hizbullah. We, too, are soldiers in Hamas and we want to liberate Palestinian land and want to release prisoners. This is not forbidden. We are allowed to do this," he said.

Kafshe, 28, and three other suspected members of the cell were brought to Lod Military Court, where they pleaded not guilty to charges of involvement in terrorist attacks that led to the deaths of at least 11 Israelis and the wounding of 49. They include at least five drive-by shootings, the kidnapping and murder of Staff Sgt. Sharon Edri, and the bombing of the Apropos cafe in Tel Aviv a year ago.

See **TERRORIST**, Page 2

Soldiers kill 3 Arabs at roadblock



Soldiers examine the bullet-riddled van at the Tarkumiya roadblock yesterday in which three Palestinians were shot dead. (AP)

IDF braces for revenge attacks

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN,
MARGOT DUDKEVITCH,
and MOHAMMED NAJIB

The IDF is on the alert for an outbreak of violence today after two soldiers shot and killed three Palestinian laborers and wounded two others when their van allegedly ran a roadblock near Hebron yesterday.

Two paratroopers suspected of opening fire were detained by the Military Police.

The shooting occurred around 5:45 p.m. at the Tarkumiya roadblock between Hebron and Beit Guvrin. According to the IDF Spokesman, a white van with Israeli license plates filled with Palestinian workers attempted to run the roadblock, passing a line of cars. It swerved and hit a soldier, lightly injuring him.

The roadblock was manned by paratroopers, two of whom opened fire at the van, riddling it with bullets. Three of the occupants were killed and two wounded, one seriously. IDF medics treated the wounded, who were later brought to Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem, military officials said.

The injured soldier was hospitalized with light injuries.

OC Judea and Samaria Brig.-Gen. Yitzhak Eitan said the soldiers opened fire after the van tried to run the roadblock and ran

down a soldier.

Eitan said that "soldiers who saw this opened fire at the vehicle until it came to a halt. It turned out that three Palestinians were killed and two were wounded."

Palestinians identified the fatalities as Chaleb Rajoub, a relative of West Bank Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub, Mohammed Sharowna, and Adnan Abu Zneid.

Eitan ordered the two soldiers who opened fire detained pending an investigation to be headed by a brigade commander at the rank of colonel.

IDF officials refused to say last night whether the soldiers had shouted out warnings or fired into the air and at the van's tires before shooting at it.

"The incident is a difficult one and is under examination," he said.

Asked whether soldiers had acted according to instructions, Eitan replied:

"From an initial investigation it seems there was an attempt to run down a soldier and the soldiers acted accordingly. The other aspects are under investigation. The investigation will examine whether the soldiers fired at the vehicle after they saw it run down the soldier and reacted to what they saw. If they saw well or not, that is up to the inquiry."

See **ROADBLOCK**, Page 2

Netanyahu: Arafat is ready for a summit

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu revealed yesterday that a "message" has been transmitted by the Palestinian Authority to the effect that Chairman Yasser Arafat is willing to participate in a summit conference.

"I heard a message in this direction," Netanyahu said when asked about the prospects of his proposal for a face-to-face meeting with Arafat. "We will examine it in the next few days."

Netanyahu spoke at a joint news conference with Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan in Tel Aviv.

Hassan, who conferred with Arafat in Ramallah on Monday, denied that he has been acting as a "mediator" or "representative." But he said that his session with Arafat and other Palestinian leaders was "fruitful" and "upbeat."

Carefully choosing his words in an apparent bid to uphold the confidences given him by the two sides, Hassan said that "there certainly was a commitment [on the Palestinians' part] to the rejuvenation of the peace process."

He reacted to a question about whether Arafat considers Netanyahu "too tough" as a negotiator by drawing from his knowledge of the Bible. He quoted the Hebrew saying, taken from Proverbs 18:21, "Maver' v'ha'im b'yad halashon" (Death and life depend on the tongue).

Netanyahu picked up immediately from where he left off, saying, "We heard certain things. I prefer of course to adhere to the framework of our contacts."

Earlier, at a special cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said that he intends to honor the Oslo Accords and demands that the "other party do so as well."

Briefing the ministers about his trip to Spain, Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom, Netanyahu said he emphasized in his talks there that the fulfillment of commitments made by the Palestinians is the immediate and



Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan (left) speaks at yesterday's Tel Aviv press conference, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looks on. (Reuters)

necessary condition for resuming the peace process.

The cabinet communique quoted him as saying Israel is trying to advance the work of the interim agreement committees and contending that the European countries can contribute to this by encouraging the Palestinians to

Terrorism on the rise, Page 2

reach agreement with Israel on these matters.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said that the transfer of up to 6 percent of Area C to the Palestinian Authority would not cause excessive damage to Israel's security. But he said "substantial damage would be caused" by the transfer of 9 percent. He referred to the military installations and strategic positions on the slopes overlooking the Jordan River which would be forfeited.

He warned that the PA is stockpiling Strella and Stinger shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles for use against planes taking off or landing at Ben-Gurion Airport and said this is sufficient reason to hold the terrain in question.

Sharon and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Shalansky, who visited Jordan on Sunday and Monday respectively, were present at the joint news conference and heard Hassan and Netanyahu

refer repeatedly to the positive outcome of their talks in Amman.

They also reported to the cabinet on their contacts in Jordan.

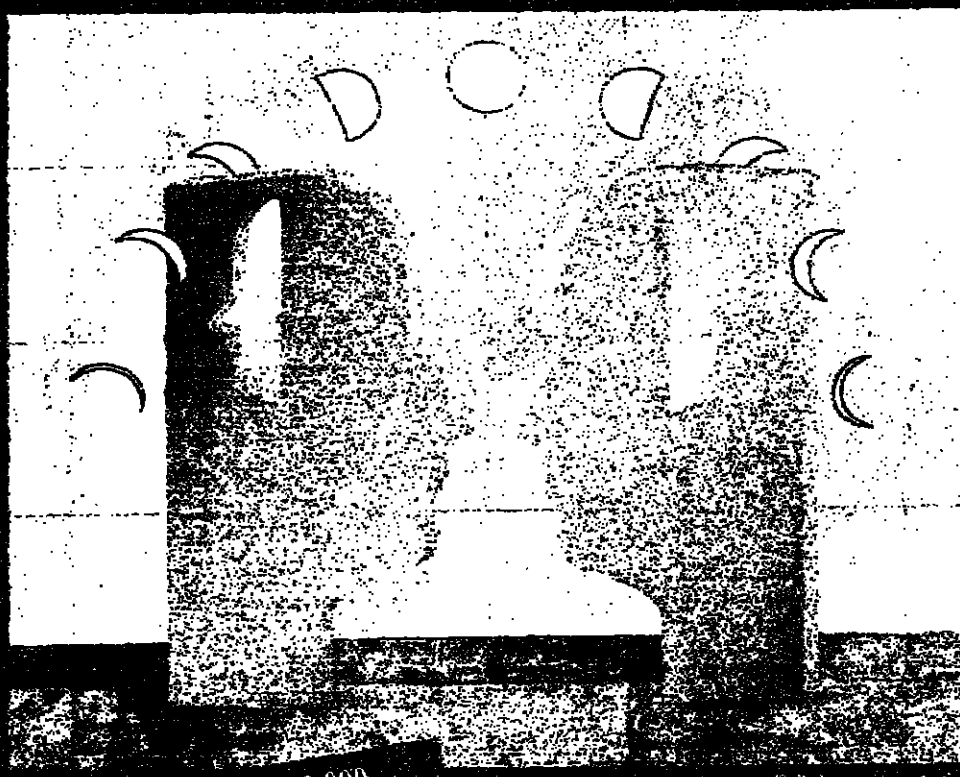
Netanyahu cited Hassan's rejoinder to those who have lost hope or confidence in the peace process, be they Palestinian, Jordanian, or Israeli: "Lighting a candle is better than cursing the darkness. Today we lit a candle," Netanyahu said.

Among the joint projects agreed upon by Hassan and Netanyahu were: reconstruction of the Allenby Bridge; utilizing funds contributed by Japan; analyzing the economic feasibility of constructing a canal between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea; construction of a railway between the Dead Sea and Red Sea "for the mutual benefit" of Israel and Jordan; and the landing of more international flights to Eilat at Akaba Airport in accordance with a decision taken on March 1 by the Jordanian government.

In Washington, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk warned yesterday that the window of opportunity for peace is closing.

Washington has no intention of imposing an American peace plan on Israel and the Palestinians, Indyk said, but was merely introducing new ideas to advance the peace process. Speaking to a Senate subcommittee on international relations, Indyk said there had been a dangerous regression into a situation of "no war and no peace."

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NEWS

in brief

GSS begins questioning officials over leaks

General Security Service agents yesterday began questioning officials at the Prime Minister's Office about media leaks over the arrest of a Mossad agent in Switzerland last month and a secret trip by cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and adviser Uzi Arad to France last week.

The GSS investigation, ordered by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is intended to scare the employees there, MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) said yesterday. "What audacity from the prime minister, who was the one to leak the Staber Document," he said, referring to a classified IDF memo Netanyahu, as opposition leader, revealed in a Knesset debate. *Liat Collins*

Jerusalem tax adviser found murdered

Jerusalem police said yesterday they had found the body of Menashe Dalal, a tax adviser who had been reported missing two weeks ago, near a gas station in the Beit Shemesh area and he had apparently been murdered over a financial dispute. Police said they believed Dalal was kidnapped, then strangled to death in the last two days. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Immigrant killed in card-game feud

Shomgun Abramov, 28, an immigrant from the former Soviet Union, was stabbed to death yesterday, apparently during a feud that erupted over a card game, police said.

He was attacked at the entrance to Neve Chen in Kiryat Ata. Magen David Adom medics pronounced him dead at the scene. Zevulun District police held two people for questioning, but it was unclear whether they were suspected of being involved or had only witnessed the feud. *Itim*

Grapes of Wrath monitoring group to convene

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group is to convene today at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura to discuss three complaints from Israel and two from Lebanon. Israel's complaints relate to Hizbullah mortar fire at Rehman village inside the security zone in which a woman resident was lightly hurt and anti-aircraft fire at IAF helicopters last week from Hadatha and Haris villages, north of the zone, as well as mortar firing into Jezzine village. *David Rudge*

Clinton, Blair discuss Mideast peace

US President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair have agreed to coordinate US and European efforts to revive the Middle East peace process, a British spokesman said yesterday.

A spokesman for Blair, who holds the European Union presidency, said he and Clinton spoke by telephone for 25 minutes on Monday night and agreed on the need for "rapid progress" in the peace process. "The United States and the European Union will be working together to bring this about. Both sides have ideas and will be working together to bring this about." *Reuters*

US, Russia open talks on Iran, other issues

US Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin began the 10th in a biannual series of talks yesterday on a full range of bilateral concerns, including the thorny issue of Russian missile exports to Iran and Caspian Sea oil pipelines. In a letter read by Gore, US President Bill Clinton praised the talks for advancing "concrete, practical joint projects that have touched the lives of the people of Russia and America and brought our two great countries closer together." Chernomyrdin lauded the talks "proven success in trying to untie knots of various great difficulties." *Reuters*

TERRORIST

Continued from Page 1

Ibrahim Abdullah Ghanimat and Gamal Jibril Alhour also pleaded not guilty. Rayid Salah Abu Hamid, 22, acknowledged that the attacks took place, but denied having anything to do with them. The court will reconvene in a month.

Kafshe's remarks took the Likud by surprise. While Labor was acutely discomfited and turned its guns on the Likud. No sooner had Kafshe said his piece, than hectic consultations were under way in Labor on how to minimize the damage. The decision was to launch an offensive against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Likud.

Barak set the tone for Labor when he charged that "this is all a result of irresponsible things which have come out of the political Right. This is a strange and embarrassing alliance between spokesmen on the Right and the

Hamas terrorists."

But aside from blaming the Right, Barak also strove to play down his own words on TV: "I did Labor no damage... This is much ado about nothing. Since when do vile terrorists determine our agenda? This is all nonsense. In a mere 20 months, this government has managed to confuse people and blur the line between words and deeds. What relevance has all this? Everything I said was hypothetical on a bizarre TV show on an obscure channel."

Barak's original comments were made to Gideon Levy (Labor's former spokesman) on his interview program on cable Channel 3. Netanyahu reacted without specifically mentioning Barak, saying only that "everyone ought to take responsibility for his own words and not run away from them. If a mistake is made, it ought to be owned up to and admitted. Under no circumstance must any legitimacy be accorded to terror."

But the top men were relatively

tame in their responses. Labor MK Dalia Izik charged that "the Likud is calling for Barak's assassination. They say that Barak is responsible for terror. This goes to show whom we are dealing with. The Likud is a collection of base and object characters who must be fought all the way."

Labor Knesset faction chairman Elie Goldschmidt accused the Likud of "having descended into the cesspool for political gain. We will expose the Likud's ugly and twisted face."

Communications Minister Limor Livnat said she was "shocked by this calculated onslaught on the Likud. I thought that after his not-so-smart utterances, Barak would keep himself out of the limelight for a couple of days, but instead the Likud is turned into a scapegoat for his lack of prudence. This is outright chutzpa. However, the public is not stupid and will see through this cynical offensive."

An official Likud statement

charged that "once more Barak flees responsibility. Instead of admitting an unfortunate mistake, Barak, contemptuous of the public's intelligence, thinks he can blame the Likud for his own errors."

But some in the Likud did blame Barak for legitimizing terror. MK Naomi Blumenthal maintained that "he had given the terrorists their new recruitment slogan." Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom said that "a Palestinian youth listening to Barak might judge himself unpatriotic if he is not a terrorist."

In Labor, there was also much of the record criticism of Barak, but few came close to hinting at it on the record. Thus MK Hagai Meron said the "situation following what Barak said is problematic for Labor. Our task now is to explain that he was misunderstood. It will be difficult, but we have been through worse."

MK Salah Tarif added that "there is no doubt that Barak slipped badly, but the media blew this up out of all proportion."

skirmished with angry relatives from the nearby town of Dura, where the victims came from. Two policemen were reportedly injured by stones. By late last night, the area around the roadblock was calm. Jewish settlements in Judea and along the Green Line were put on alert. Local security officers were instructed to remain vigilant and the Border Police beefed up patrols.

Palestinian sources said that the three shooting victims had been returning home from work in the Givatayim area.

Yusef Abdul-Rahim, secretary-general of the Palestinian Authority, charged the incident was a massacre and a brutal crime. He called for international intervention.

Hebron Police Chief Brig.-Gen. Tarik Zeid said that "nothing under any circumstances justifies IDF soldiers opening fire on Arab workers. The act only confirms the IDF's brutality and the fact that they opened fire in all directions."

Palestinian sources said that the van had swerved for mechanical reasons, and that the driver had no intention of running the roadblock or hurting the soldier.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's aide Nabil Abu Rudeineh charged that "the Israeli occupiers will bear the full responsibility for those injured in the incident."

A Palestinian security officer who witnessed the shooting, Lafi Ghais, disagreed with the IDF account. "The van didn't run over anybody. They entered the checkpoint as nor-

mal and then all of sudden all we heard was shooting from three automatic weapons," Ghais said.

One of the passengers, Ali Abu Zneid, said that while at the roadblock, one soldier started checking the van and then waved it onward. Abu Zneid said that another soldier standing on the other side of the roadblock asked the van to stop and then started shooting at them, and that then three more soldiers opened fire.

"We had stopped the van when they opened fire," Abu Zneid charged.

Violence erupted in Hebron shortly after the shooting, as hundreds of Palestinians rioted in the downtown area, throwing stones and firebombs at the IDF. Soldiers opened fire with rubber bullets, injuring three Palestinians.

Last night, shots were fired in Hebron last night at an IDF post near the Abraham Avinu Quarter. Nobody was injured, but Jewish settlers said that some bullets penetrated the outpost.

The Fatah movement called for a general strike for today in Hebron, in protest against the shooting. OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and other senior IDF officers held meetings with PA officials last night in an attempt to calm the atmosphere.

IDF troops in the territories and Border Police contingents along the Green Line have been put on heightened alert, but no reinforcements were deployed.

NEWSLINE

with Middle East expert Prof. Shimon Shamir

Shamir was Israel's first ambassador to Jordan and a former ambassador to Egypt

What is the significance of the visit of Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan?

It is an indication of a marked improvement in relations after the crisis over the Mash'al Affair. Crown Prince Hassan's visit is the culmination of a whole series of meetings, the most important being those in Amman between National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Trade and Industry Minister Nathan Sharansky with senior Jordanian officials. There cannot be a clearer signal that the Jordanians feel there are many shared interests between the two independent countries and that cooperation between them must continue, including in the fields of infrastructure projects, economics and defense.

Is the composition of the delegation accompanying Hassan also important?

Indeed, it is very significant. From my visit to Jordan on Monday I understood that accompanying Hassan would be the two deputy prime ministers, Abdallah Nasour and Jawad Anani, and the speaker of the Jordanian parliament, as well as other officials and many journalists.

There was a debate in the parliament on Sunday which focused on the development of relations with Israel. The speaker was actually criticized for taking part in the trip here. The presence of parliament members who only a short while ago criticized Jordanian journalists for coming to Israel is an indirect statement that contacts between Israelis and Jordanians are necessary and are going to expand.

Is the resumption of normal ties likely to be linked to a Jordanian initiative to get the peace process back on track, especially vis-a-vis the Palestinians?

It is very likely. There was a precedent for this in the talks that preceded the Hebron Accord. King Hussein stepped in during the final stages of negotiations and his contribution, which was always, was coordinated with Egypt, was very helpful in bringing about this agreement.

I think that the Jordanians want to play a positive role, although without arousing any suspicion on the part of either the Palestinians or the Israelis, that they are working in the service of one or the other. They will also want to ensure that any moves would not undermine Egypt's traditional position and role.

The Jordanians would like to see progress on the peace process and the reasons are very clear - they share interests with the Palestinians and other interests with the Israelis and the only way to harmonize these two sets of interests is by advancing the peace process.

David Rudge

There was a total of six mass attacks in 1997 compared to four the previous year. Four of the six attacks were suicide bombings.

In 1997, the casualties numbered 29 dead and 414 injured.

The main rise in attacks was in the Judea region, where there were 315 last year compared to 131 in 1996. Among these were 166 attacks in Hebron, compared to 40 the previous year. There were 50 attacks using explosive devices last year, 39 of them in Hebron.

There were 21 shooting incidents in 1997, 340 incidents involving firebombs, and 18 stabbing incidents, seven of them in Jerusalem.

In addition, there were 400 minor incidents involving protests, such as stone-throwing, and 420 incidents of friction of some type. More incidents took place in open

areas compared to the previous year, a fact which is believed to have kept fatalities low.

Ayalon said the terror organizations, particularly Hamas, want to carry out attacks with large numbers of casualties and noted in this context the recently thwarted plan to bomb the Haifa bus station.

He said Hamas has been strengthened by the freeze in the peace process and the release of leaders like Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the Hamas spiritual leader, and Mousa Abu Marzook, the head of Hamas's political wing. He noted that Israeli prisons are a source of recruitment for Hamas.

Ayalon attributed the pervading feeling of calm mainly to the method of thwarting attacks developed by the security forces and said this is definitely a deterrent.

Some 100 planned attacks had

been frustrated, including attacks planned on the Malha shopping mall in Jerusalem. Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool amphitheater, planned kidnappings of mayors, attacks on railroads and at hitch hiking posts, car bombs, explosive devices on a bypass road in

Judea and Samaria, attacks in the center of Ariel and Pitsgat Ze'ev, and a car bomb at the diamond exchange in Ramat Gan.

Ayalon reportedly said that security cooperation with the Palestinian Authority has deteriorated and is "minimal."

TERROR ATTACKS

	1996	1997
Total attacks	268	463
Bombings	4	6
Attacks in Judea	131	315
Attacks in Hebron	40	166



A policeman inspects a stolen car, ready to be stripped for parts, during yesterday's raid on Shuweika. (Jerusalem Post)

Raid on village near Tulkarm cracks down on car theft

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Close to midnight on Monday, some 1,000 soldiers, border policemen, and policemen raided the village of Shuweika, on the outskirts of Tulkarm, as part of a continuing effort to crack down on car theft.

During the 17-hour operation, security forces arrested 56 suspects and recovered 46 vehicles. According to the Oslo Accords the area is under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Police, but Israeli security forces are allowed to enter if there is a security risk.

Police Insp.-Gen. Yehuda Wilk warned that as long as the Palestinian Police fail to crack down on car thefts, the Israel Police would continue to carry out such operations. Judea and Samaria police chief Cdr. Yitzhak Aharonovitch, who supervised the raid, told reporters that police entered to deal with the ring-leaders, find the sites where cars were stripped, and recover stolen parts and cars that had recently been stolen and were still intact.

Judea and Samaria police spokesman Opher Sivan said the raid was the largest of its kind to take place in the territories to date and will have a direct impact in reducing the number of car thefts in the center of the country. The police, he said, had acted on intelligence compiled over several months, most of which came from suspects arrested in previous raids.

The security forces were accompanied by liaison officers and informed the Palestinian police-

men at the station in the village about the raid, saying they suspected weapons were being held by village residents. Sivan said security forces entered the homes of Palestinians they planned to arrest, as well as car repair shops.

Throughout the village, they found the remains of hundreds of vehicles stripped for parts. Police also found a pirate compact disc factory, with hundreds of forged discs and the electronic equipment used to forge them. A machine used to make forged credit cards was also found.

By midday, the village - declared a closed military zone when the raid began - was full of IDF and police vehicles. Scores of detectives driving rented cars entered and left. Trucks began picking up the hundreds of stolen car parts, and tow trucks carted the stolen vehicles away.

The playing field outside the high school was turned into a makeshift camp, as soldiers rested in the shade of the trees. Journalists were forced to wait at the entrance to the village until Minister of Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani and Wilk arrived.

They were slated to arrive at 12:30, and many of the journalists, who were left standing in the heat of the midday sun, decided to leave the area in protest at 2:30, when they had still failed to arrive. Other journalists protested that the police demanded they travel inside the village in police vehicles and would be taken only to specific sites.

Locals gathered at the entrance to the village said scores of

Israelis bought their cars to the village and left them with the keys in the ignition. "For NIS 1,000, many people took the cars and the Israelis notified their insurance agencies that the car had been stolen," one said.

In the Ali Baba restaurant several hundred meters away, Palestinians sat drinking coffee and talking about the raid. "You must understand that we all used to work in Israel. Once we were prevented from entering Israel and we were not issued work permits, we were forced to find jobs in the village," said Mohammed Mansour.

Others claimed the security forces acted barbarically, breaking into car repair shops and entering homes, causing havoc. Munir Jizawari said he was outside the village and phoned his wife when the raid happened. "She told me they were making a mess in the house and had broken everything," he said, adding he decided to remain outside, as he had been arrested several times during the intifada.

Mansour who owns a body repair shop in the village said many of the residents were in touch with their former Israeli bosses, who sent many cars to the village for repairs. He charged that the raid would only serve to increase car theft in the area. "It is the Israeli government which will lose out in the end, as it will foot the bill," he added.

However, another resident declared, "I will rob, steal, or even kill to put food on the table for my family."

Man held on suspicion of murdering his wife

By DAVID RUDGE

Revital Amzaleg, 24, was stabbed to death yesterday in front of her mother at the latter's home in Kiryat Motzkin, apparently by her estranged husband, who then fled.

Magen David Adom paramedics arrived within minutes of the alarm being raised, but could not resuscitate her. She had been stabbed once in the chest.

Police last night caught and arrested the husband, Shimon Amzaleg, 28.

Relatives and friends told reporters that the couple had only been married two years and their daughter was born shortly afterwards.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YVCA, King David Street. Rony Shendak will speak on "The Rehabilitation of Children with Cerebral Palsy. A Merry Purim to All."

Problems arose in the relationship several months later and they had been living apart, Shimon in Haifa and Revital with her parents.

According to police, the couple had been trying to sell their home and was in the middle of divorce proceedings. The victim had reportedly been to the rabbinate earlier yesterday in an effort to speed-up the divorce.

The family of the victim said she had submitted several complaints to police about acts of violence by

the husband. Haifa police spokesman Supt. Moshe Nissan said that the only complaint relating to a threat of violence which the wife had submitted was in August.

She subsequently withdrew the complaint saying it would be sufficient to warn Shimon. "The husband was brought in for questioning and warned, although the case had been officially closed," he said.

He said subsequent complaints by Revital related to the joint property of the couple.

ROADBLOCK

Continued from Page 1

He added: "We urge the Palestinian Police to calm the atmosphere and we will turn over the main points of the investigation to the Palestinian Authority."

Some security officials close to

incident doubted the soldiers' version of events and suggested that the claim of an injured soldier may have been made to cover up what may have been needless bloodshed. The shooting occurred as hundreds of Palestinian laborers returned to work from jobs in Israel.

Tempers flared and stones were thrown at border policemen who



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**US envoy meets US students**

US Ambassador Edward Walker chats with (from left) Stephanie Deporte of Omaha, Ariel Chasnov of Chicago, and Jonathan Freidrich of New York, during a meeting with American students at the Hebrew University's Mt. Scopus campus yesterday.

(Ariel Jerolimski)

Beilin: 10 new laws needed to change religious status quo

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The MKs who drew up the new covenant between religious and secular Jews are already preparing legislation in accord with the new status quo, according to MK Yossi Beilin (Labor), who formulated the accord together with MK Alex Lubotzky (Third Way), the leaders of Meimad, and rabbis from the Religious Kibbutz Movement.

Beilin, who spoke on the agreement at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem on Monday night, said that it was actually MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) who had submitted the first private member's bill concerning one of the aspects of the agreement, the elimination of the duality in the Chief Rabbinate, both on a local and national level, despite the rejection of the accord

by haredi politicians. In all, Beilin said, about 10 laws would be needed to effect the changes necessary for the legal aspects of the covenant.

Concerning one of the aspects of most concern to the haredi population, the call for universal national service, Beilin said that the present arrangement, whereby haredim receive deferments from the army as long as they are full-time yeshiva students, has resulted in a situation unparalleled in Jewish history, where an entire population studies in yeshivot. In the past, he said, only some members of the haredi community were yeshiva students.

"We have become the truant officers for the yeshivot," Beilin said.

He said that as in the historic status quo, formulated in 1947,

public institutions should be kosher, but he rejected the argument that like kashrut, the secular had to accept a rabbinical monopoly in matters of marriage and divorce. Despite the rise in the population, he said, the number of those married by the rabbinate remains static, indicating that an ever growing number choose to establish bonds without rabbinical sanction.

However, unlike the historic status quo, Beilin said he sees the new agreement as fluid, something that should not remain for another 50 years, but be questioned and changed in five years. It is only by coming to an understanding, he added, that friction between religious and secular will not create a new crisis as soon as there peace with our neighbors.

'Serious irregularities' found in jubilee financing abroad

By BATCHEVA TSUR

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu did not get the approval of the ministerial committee on ceremonies when he decided to appoint a nonprofit organization for jubilee celebrations in the US, according to a report submitted by the controller of the Prime Minister's Office.

The prime minister appointed a three-member association to organize the festivities and two mem-

bers were father and son, the report noted.

Details of the report, presented by the controller, Uzi Berliski, to the director-general of the prime minister's office, Moshe Leon, were revealed yesterday at a meeting of the Knesset's State Control Committee.

"This is tantamount to setting up a private business... Netanyahu cannot simply give the organization of the events as a gift to his buddies," committee chairman

Yossi Katz (Labor) said. "There are serious irregularities revealed in this report."

Katz said that the consul-general in Los Angeles had drawn up a detailed plan for festivities in the US, which was ignored by the organizers.

Many of the problems have to do with a giant production being organized by CBS. The budget owed to CBS is about \$2 million short, according to the report. In addition, the arrangement was

made unprofessionally.

"There was not even a legal agreement drawn up between CBS and the association," Katz said, adding that he feared Israel would have to cover the deficit. "There are already sums which have been paid from private pockets," he noted.

But Doron Shmueli, the new head of the nonprofit association organizing the celebrations, said that \$1.4m. had already been allocated to CBS. The legal adviser of the prime minister's office, Shimon

Stein, accompanied by an accountant, was due to leave yesterday evening for the US to check that everything was in order, he said.

Preparations for the jubilee in Israel and abroad have been marked by constant bickering among organizers and the chairmanship of the non-profit organization has thrice changed hands.

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav recently resigned as minister in charge of the events. Shmueli took over from former finance minister

Yitzhak Modai only a month ago.

On the bright side, Shmueli said that a giant Purim Adloyada would take place tomorrow in Tel Aviv as part of jubilee celebrations. Thousands of children from development towns are to be brought to the big city to participate, he said. There are also to be "happenings" in 27 development towns in the next five months, "so that every child in Israel will one day be able to recall how he celebrated the country's jubilee."

WHO denounces study on passive smoking

By JUDY SIEGEL

The World Health Organization yesterday denounced the "distortion" of an unpublished research study that allegedly failed to scientifically prove an association between passive (sidestream) smoking and lung cancer. News reports on the "completely misrepresented study" were published in the *Sunday Times* in Britain and Monday in *Yedioth Aharonot*, among other newspapers.

The WHO, in an unusual worldwide release, said: "Passive smoking does cause lung cancer. Don't let them fool you." Some anti-smoking interests abroad claimed that tobacco companies were behind the "distorted" report. The WHO stated that it had been publicly accused of suppressing information by "withholding its own report from publication" because the study "failed to scientifically prove there is an association between passive smoking - or environmental tobacco smoke - and a number of diseases, lung cancer in particular. Both statements are untrue."

In fact, said the WHO, the study on the effects of environmental tobacco smoke is part of lung-cancer research conducted over the past seven years in Europe and elsewhere. It found that there is an estimated 16 percent higher risk of lung cancer among non-smoking spouses of smokers. For workplace exposure, the estimated higher risk is 17%. But due to "small sample size, neither increased risk was statistically significant."

Because of this, and since the paper has not yet been sent for peer review, the WHO did not make it public immediately, but now the authors of the study have agreed to make an abstract of the report available to the media. The WHO said that the results are "very much in line" with hundreds of other studies backing up the global scientific consensus that "passive smoking does cause lung cancer and other diseases."

The director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, Dr. Paul Kleihues, said that "it is no coincidence that this misinformation originally appeared in the British press just before the No-Tobacco Day in the United Kingdom and the scheduled publication of the report of the British Scientific Committee on Tobacco and Health."

MKs warn against Volcani cutbacks

By JUDY SIEGEL

Members of the Knesset Science and Technology Committee expressed concern yesterday about the future of the Agriculture Ministry's Volcani Institute, whose staff has been drastically cut in recent years.

The sprawling institute at Beit Dagan, with a reputation for excellent basic and applied research, has 690 staffers (of these, 250 researchers with doctoral degrees), compared to 1,575 in 1975.

It was pressured by the Finance Ministry recently to dismiss 100 more employees in exchange for more research money, and fears a possibility of additional cuts which could eliminate its critical mass for excellence.

Four committee members - chairman MK Dalia Itzik (Labor), MK Ephraim Oshaya (Labor), MK Michael Nudelman (Yisrael Ba'aliya) and MK Nissim Dahan (Shas) - toured the facility yesterday as guests of Volcani director Prof. Nahum Snapir.

Snapir maintained that with the prominence of computers and the "worn-out" image of agriculture, officials have come to mistakenly believe that Israeli food production can be phased out and replaced with imports and that agricultural research is a luxury.

Volcani scientists are responsible for three-quarters of agricultural research in the country, but they earn 40% less than researchers in the universities, Snapir said.

Volcani staffers said that research on animals, field and garden crops, soils, water and plant protection regularly results in the sale or leasing of information and production of new products that

find a niche abroad.

Itzik said "We fear that the functioning and even the existence of this impressive institute are in danger, and decision makers must change their priorities to find necessary funding so Volcani can remain a world leader in its field to benefit the state and its citizens."

The Treasury spokesman commented later that a committee established by the Agriculture Ministry a few years ago found a staff "surplus" and "inefficiency" at the institute, and made cuts. But the spokesman added that he knew of no long-term plans for additional cuts and that "we'll have to wait for next year's budget to see."

Snapir argued that Israel could not afford to import most of its food like Singapore does, given the risk of a blockade.

Among the Volcani innovations viewed by the MKs while smelling the cows' manure and tramping through earthen paths, was a two-month-old female calf named Zegugit, produced by advanced in-vitro-fertilization biotechnology.

Volcani veterinarians use an ultrasound machine to insert a vaginal probe into the ovaries of top milk-producing cows and remove microscopic ripe ova, which are fertilized in a glass dish with sperm from the best bulls. The embryos are implanted in surrogate-mother cows.

In addition, Volcani field crop experts were the first to identify a gene in a wild strain of inedible tomatoes whose taste was improved by raising the sugar content. They also found a way to predict a tomatoes' future sugar content by examining DNA in the leaf of a young plant before it flowers.

Antisemitic activity in US declines

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - For the third year in a row, antisemitic activity declined in the US, the Anti-Defamation League reported in its 1997 "Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents." Forty-three states and the District of Columbia reported 1,571 incidents, down 9 percent from last year, the ADL said yesterday.

Acts of vandalism dropped 14%, while incidents of harassment, threat or assault declined 4.6%.

The number of antisemitic incidents fell in all states with large Jewish populations, except New York, where there were 380, up from 328 last year.

Continuing a seven-year trend, there were more acts of antisemitic harassment than vandalism. Harassment ranges from slurs and affronts to physical assault. Most

of the targets of harassment - including 37 assaults - were individuals, but harassment was also directed against Jewish schools, community centers, and synagogues.

Among the most serious incidents reported were the detonation of a bomb in the parking lot of a Jewish community center in Mercer Island, Washington, and an incendiary device placed under a window at a Jewish school in Philadelphia, which blew a hole in an exterior wall.

"After years of alerting the American people to the dangers of bias-related incidents, we are now reaping the benefits of making the eradication of hate crimes a national priority," said ADL director Abraham Foxman. But he cautioned that ignorance and hatred lurk behind every bias incident, which must be eradicated with education.

**Paying last respects**

Mourners pay tribute yesterday at the funeral of the late Sephardi chief rabbi of Tel Aviv, Haim David Halevy, who died Monday night. The funeral procession began at the Ohel Moed Synagogue in Tel Aviv, and Halevy was buried at Jerusalem's Har Hamenuhot Cemetery. Both Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron delivered eulogies. Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo also spoke.

(Text: Haim Shapiro; photo: Brian Hendler)

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

PA leadership speaks Russian

At a recent news conference in Gaza organized by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat for the Israeli Russian-language press, *Novosti Nedeli's* Rimma Shanis reports that of the dozen Arafat advisers, aides, and other officials, Arafat was the only one who did not speak Russian. Almost all the Palestinian leadership, she said, received academic degrees in the former USSR, their wives are Russian, and they speak Russian at home. Shanis was fellow journalists that the PA leadership reads Russian newspapers regularly and may obtain classified information which sometimes leaks into the press.

Which papers do Russians read?

Vesti published the results of a recent survey of Russian-speakers' newspaper preferences. According to the Geocartographia Institute, of the 16 Russian-language newspapers in Israel, the daily *Vesti* rated 15% daily and 31% weekly and 20% weekly. Among the weeklies, *Echo* rated 25%, *Globus* 19%, *Luch* 16%, *Secret* 13%, *Panorama* 13%, and *Novosti Israelit* 12%. As for the Hebrew press, the survey revealed that 5% of Russian immigrants read *Yedioth Aharonot* daily, 8% weekly, and 11% monthly. *Ma'ariv* is read by 2.5% daily and 7.6% monthly.

Discrimination against Russians

In *Russky Israelit*, Vadim Korsh expresses his concern about the inability of Russian immigrants to stand up for themselves in the face of discrimination. He refers to a letter to the editor in which a Russian couple complains about the *maitre d'* of a Tel Aviv restaurant who refused to let them in, saying only "This place is not for you." The couple, for fear of reprisal, did not mention the name of the restaurant or the *maitre d'*.

Korsh says, As for discrimination, people follow the path of least resistance. Meeting with no defiance, they continue to affront us with impunity. We have only ourselves to blame. We should not be so weak," he says, and urges readers to shatter the image of the defenseless Russian immigrant.

Gas masks, an apt

Israeli souvenir

Looking back at the consequences of the Iraq crisis, Lev Avenays says in *Russky Israelit* that, in addition to the half billion shekels spent on "senseless actions," Israel suffered major economic damage due to the lack of tourists. "I would never go to a country where gas masks were being sold to tourists arriving at the airport. However, why shouldn't one buy a gas mask in Israel, just as one buys a sombrero in Mexico or a matryoshka [painted doll] in Russia? It can serve as a symbol of this country, which went crazy because of the panic."

Agency cuts down

While the number of potential immigrants from the CIS is constantly decreasing, the Jewish Agency is reducing its activities there, Arkan Kariv reports in *Vesti*. Not only will fewer immigrants be

dealt with, but financial assistance for a single immigrant is being reduced as well. Compensation for the baggage of Russian immigrants will be the same as for immigrants from the West. The real difference is estimated as "several hundred dollars for a single immigrant." Since 1996, the Jewish Agency's budget has been reduced by 20%. The immigration figure is approximately the same. Ukraine remains the major source of aliya from the CIS.

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Ben-Ami: Society must decide female role in combat

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami said yesterday it is up to society, not the armed forces, to decide whether women could serve in the navy's prestigious sailor's course.

Ben-Ami was reacting to a petition filed with the High Court of Justice by Meretz MKs Anat Maor and Naomi Chazan, along with four women who wish to become sailors, to open the course to females. The petition was filed against the Ministry of Defense as well as the IDF.

Ben-Ami told Israel Radio yesterday that the IDF's refusal to open combat roles to women is due to majority public sentiment. "It is not a decision of the IDF, but rather a decision of Israeli society. The IDF will of course honor any decision made by society, but it is Israeli society which needs to decide whether it will change its ruling not to allow female soldiers into combat zones," Ben-Ami said.

"In the past," he continued, "Israeli society has called to keep servicewomen out of combat zones. In the past I presume there were servicewomen who wanted very much to be fighters. But Israeli society decided at the time that girls not serve in war zones." Ben-Ami praised the resurgent desire among women to serve in combat units, but said it is up to society to make the decision, not the IDF. He said the training and operational roles given women in the IDF are unmatched by other armed forces and have greatly increased over the past few years.

"Female soldiers are close to combat zones and deal with very vital and important tasks," Ben-Ami said. "Should female soldiers be allowed on navy vessels? As you know, these sail in combat zones. Israeli society is the one that has to decide whether it is going to change the concept that female soldiers don't serve in combat zones." Ben-Ami called the recent decision to allow women doctors to fly rescue missions over Lebanon an "experiment. But it shows the openness and the intention of the IDF to add and involve women soldiers and officers as much as possible in these tasks. But it is an experiment — we have to examine it."

Knesset voices support for women's issues

By LIAT COLLINS

MKs from Likud, Labor, Meretz, Moledet, the National Religious Party and the Arab factions united yesterday in support of women's issues, in honor of International Women's Day, which was Sunday.

Among the bills was one against sexual harassment and one establishing an umbrella body for women's affairs.

In an unusual move to promote the legislation on the umbrella authority, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took to the

podium to present a bill drawn up by the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women headed by Labor MK Yael Dayan.

"In matters of the status of women there is no Left and no Right and no considerations of government against opposition," Netanyahu said. "That's what's happened in this case. MKs and ministers acted together as one because there is only one opposition to this bill: The opposition to this bill are men who beat their wives; employers who threaten to fire a worker if she becomes pregnant; and the bodies which discriminate in wages. Against

them we all stand as one coalition."

Labor leader Ehud Barak said: "Furthering women is in the utmost interests of a society. The capabilities of women is the most obvious resource which we are not using today in our society."

The sexual harassment bill was initiated by all eight women MKs: Yael Dayan, Dalia Itzik and Sofa Landver from Labor, Naomi Blumenthal (Likud), Naomi Chazan and Anat Maor (Meretz), Tamar Gozansky (Hadasah) and Marina Solodkin (Yisrael Ba'aliya).

The bill defines sexual harassment as using blackmail or threats to carry out a sexual act; indecent acts as defined by the penal code; repeated suggestions of a sexual nature to a person who has shown disinterest in them; and scornful or humiliating attitudes towards somebody's sexuality including sexual orientation. It also relates to cases in which the victim is a minor or dependent on or under the jurisdiction of the harasser, such as in a teacher-student, doctor-patient or military officer-soldier relationship.

The bill calls for a two year prison sen-

tence for harassment and three years for incidents in which a person might take revenge on somebody who has filed a harassment complaint.

Maor is calling for legislation which would punish a person who deliberately filed a false complaint.

Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi complained that the bill was too encompassing.

Moledet MK Benny Elon, whose wife Emma, is a former advisor to the prime minister on women's affairs, supports the bill.

Court postpones ruling on Haggai Amir's court fees

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday postponed a decision whether to exempt Haggai Amir, who was found guilty of acting as his brother Yigal's accomplice in the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, from paying court fees.

Amir has asked the court to exempt him from court fees of NIS 125,000 for his NIS 5 million suit against Avishai Raviv, the for-

another 10 years to serve in prison, during which he will not be able to earn money. He added that he does not have any financial assets and that his parents' expenses are higher than their income. He refused to speak to the media.

Darshan-Leitner argued that had Raviv admitted he was a GSS informer, Amir probably would have received a significantly lower sentence, since he could have based his defense on entrap-



Avishai Raviv (left) and Haggai Amir in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

mer General Security Service agent. Amir was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment for not turning in his brother, who conspired with him about his intention to assassinate Rabin.

The court agreed to postpone the decision until next month, to give Amir's lawyer, Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, time to submit evidence of her client's financial situation, including bank accounts, declarations from the family, and expenses. Judge Sarah Brosh noted that Amir's affidavit claiming he has no money is insufficient.

Amir told the court he has

ment, which is considered a mitigating factor.

Darshan-Leitner said she will prove that Raviv had engaged in a plot to kill Rabin, together with a young yeshiva student from Jerusalem, in the summer of 1993.

The prosecution argued that Amir never mentioned Raviv in his trial and that there is no law which implies that a shorter sentence is given for a crime of which an agent is responsible for incitement. The prosecution questioned how Amir could argue that he has no money and at the same time hire the services of two lawyers.



Attending yesterday's International Women's Day ceremonies at the Knesset are (from left) State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, Ludmilla Tichon, wife of Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, State Attorney Edna Arbel, Justice Ministry Director-General Nili Arad, and Nava Barak, wife of Labor Party leader Ehud Barak.

MKs mark women's day with flowers and praise

By ESTHER HECHT

There were red carnations for each of the women who came to the Knesset yesterday to mark International Women's Day. And there were verbal bouquets galore for the achievements of the 300 participants, including State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, State Attorney Edna Arbel, judges, heads of women's organizations, top-ranking IDF officers, and entertainers.

MK Dalia Itzik paid the ultimate tribute to former education minister Shulamit Aloni, when she named her "the spiritual mother of women" in this country, and recalled that she had pioneered discussion in the Knesset of women's rights.

Singer Margalit Tzanani took the back-patting one step further.

"My father, who was a very religious man, used to say, 'You're lucky you have Shulamit Aloni. If you didn't have her, you'd have to

invent her,'" she said.

There were so many kudos and so much mutual praise that the event threatened to turn into a chat show. But it stopped short of that and instead gave the audience a warm feeling of camaraderie, expressed in broad smiles and generous applause.

MK Yael Dayan emceed the program with the same aplomb with which she runs the Status of Women Committee. The speakers — Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, Reuma Weizman, the nine women MKs, and Tzvia Cohen, head of the Council of Women's Organizations — all mentioned the half-full cup of women's achievement, and the half-empty cup of discrimination, lack of opportunity, and violence.

"It's hard to be a woman politician," Itzik pointed out. "But it's even harder to be the husband of a woman politician and have to listen to all the jibes, even from women."

And it was Itzik, head of the Science and

Technology Committee, who summed up the bittersweet meaning of the event. Turning to Tichon, she said: "Would that things were good for women all year round and that next year we'd celebrate Men's Day [instead]."

MK Naomi Blumenthal named all the women MKs and then said, "I hope that in the next Knesset there won't be time for the entire list." To those who called out names of MKs they thought, mistakenly, she'd overlooked, she responded with a smile. "Women can get it right."

Between the speeches were poems read by actresses Hanna Marron, Yona Elian, and Zaharira Harifai, and songs performed by Tzani and Haya Samir. Shoshana Damari sang "Kalanot," and Yaffa Yarkoni performed "Bab el-Wad," the classics that made them famous, and demonstrated that after decades of entertaining they could still thrill an audience. All the artists donated their performances.

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Belly dancer to challenge Bassiouny's immunity claim

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Lawyers for the Ramat Gan belly dancer who filed a NIS 1 million civil suit against Egyptian Ambassador Mohamed Bassiouny over an alleged sexual assault plan to challenge his claim of diplomatic immunity today.

The dancer, whose name is

barred from publication, claims her life was destroyed after she filed an assault complaint against Bassiouny last year. Police dropped the case in October for lack of evidence.

In the motion to Tel Aviv District Court, lawyer Nitsana Darshan-Leitner intends to argue that the case does not involve any diplomatic affairs and that the ambassador has to accept the complaint. According to the Foreign Ministry, the diplomatic immunity the ambassador enjoys from Israeli jurisdiction applies to the circumstances of this case.

Darshan-Leitner will argue that Israeli law has precedence over the Vienna Convention, under which business or commercial matters outside a diplomat's official duties do not entail immunity. According to Darshan-Leitner, the belly dancer was invited to Dr. Yehoshafat Shulman's home to discuss job offers. At his home, Bassiouny allegedly attacked her. The lawyer also intends to argue that, since Bassiouny has served here for 17 years and as a resident of Israel, his status is different to that of a diplomat who has been here for only a few years.

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Police on high alert for Purim

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Purim begins tonight, a festive holiday that has seen an inordinate amount of violence and terrorism over the last few years.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said that no specific attack warnings have been issued, "but in any case we have beefed up reinforcements in Jerusalem, in public places and places of entertainment."

Over the last few years, terror attacks have become all too common during the week of Purim. Last year, three people were killed when a bomb went off in Cafe Apropos in Tel Aviv two days before Purim. On Purim day 1996, 13 people were killed and 108 injured when a bomb exploded outside Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv. A day before, a bus bomb in Jerusalem killed 18 and wounded seven.

In 1994, Baruch Goldstein gunned down 29 Palestinian worshippers at the Machpelah Cave in Hebron on Purim.

A week before Purim in 1993, two people were killed and nine were wounded in Tel Aviv by a knife-wielding attacker from the Gaza Strip.

And in 1992, two people were killed and 16 wounded by a knife-wielding assailant in Jaffa on



Purim celebrants walk past soldiers on the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall in Jerusalem yesterday.

Purim.

The holiday — which celebrates the victory of Jews over the likes of Haman, who tried to kill the Jews of Persia — will begin at sunset, when

the Book of Esther will be read in synagogues throughout the country. (In Jerusalem, the holiday starts tomorrow night.)

Tomorrow, (Friday in Jerusalem),

it is customary for adults accompanied by children in masquerade to bring gifts of food to neighbors, friends and relatives, make special contributions to the poor, and make

mercy as prescribed by the Book of Esther. It is customary to eat small, three-cornered pastries — often filled with poppy seeds, prunes, or other fruit — known as hamantaschen.

Ethiopian youngsters receive special Purim gift

By DAVID RUDGE

More than 100 Ethiopian children living and studying at the Yemin Orde youth village on Mt. Carmel have received a special Purim gift — the dates of their birthdays.

"It's no joke for anybody and especially children to lack what is an essential component of a person's identity, so we decided to do something to correct this," said Dr. Chaim Peri, director of the youth village.

Staff and students enlisted the aid of Tel Aviv lawyer Yehuda Stern who voluntarily assisted in drawing up affidavits that were acceptable to the Interior Ministry.

"A computer program was used to convert the birthdays of the children from the Ethiopian calendar to Hebrew dates and those of the civil Gregorian calendar," said Peri.

The idea arose during discussions between staff and students about how best to celebrate Israel's 50th anniversary.

One of the teenagers, Elisheva Balay, 17, said the dates on her identity card just gave the year of her birth and several zeros.

"I felt insulted because two zeros are also

used to denote a public lavatory here, as if I was born in a toilet. My birthday should be one of the most important days of my life because it was when I was born," she said.

Peri said there were 117 children, out of 500 studying at the youth village, who immigrated from Ethiopia without birth certificates because they were born in rural areas.

"The point is that most of them knew, from their parents, relatives, or friends, the day they were born in terms of the Ethiopian calendar and whether it was on Shabbat, or close to a holiday," said Peri.

"The children, together with their parents, reconstructed their birthdays according to the Ethiopian calendar, which is seven years, eight months, and six days behind that of the Gregorian calendar. From that we were able to establish their birthdays with the aid of the computer program which was originally designed to convert the Gregorian calendar into Hebrew dates or vice-versa."

Peri said the process had been made possible because of recent changes in the law regarding the fixing of birthdays.

Iodine effective on burns

By JUDY SIEGEL

The next time you burn yourself on the iron or stove, reach for the iodine ointment.

Hebrew University researchers recently discovered that this cheap medication, on the market for about 40 years, offers effective prevention of damage from skin burns.

The medication has until now been used mainly as a disinfectant. But it has been found that when applied immediately after exposure to heat, the burning sensation is significantly reduced and in some cases completely halted. The iodine also prevents the formation of a skin lesion, which can cause scarring.

The common ointment (known generically as povidone), is safe for most people, except for some who suffer from iodine hypersensitivity. The oint-

ment releases the iodine slowly and thus the substance is non-toxic.

The research team that discovered the ointment's surprising benefits was headed by Dr. Uri Wormser of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's School of Pharmacy. He and colleague Dr. Berta Brodesky initially studied chemical burns, such as those caused by mustard gas.

Povidone had amazing results on the skin of lab animals, but since the iodine was not shown to neutralize the chemical, the researchers concluded that the substance was acting on the skin. They then proceeded to focus on common burns, and found it was equally effective, but do not yet understand why.

Skin burns at home and at work are usually not serious and heal quickly, but in second- or third-degree burns, redness, blis-

ters and skin damage may follow, requiring medical intervention. Infection is a common complication.

Wormser and Brodesky found that if applied immediately, iodine ointment prevents or significantly cuts redness and blistering damage. But a delay of only five or 10 minutes in applying the ointment was found to substantially reduce its effectiveness.

The findings regarding the ointment's usefulness in treating chemical burns were published in the German *Archiv of Toxicology*, while a report about its effectiveness against thermal burns have been accepted for publication as a letter in the British journal, *Burns*.

Povidone ointment is sold commercially by Dr. Fisher Laboratories (Polydine); Vitamed (Iodovite); and Rafa (Betadine).

Hoter-Yishai appeals his verdict

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Israel Bar Association chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai yesterday appealed his conviction on tax evasion charges, arguing that some of the income involved was exempt from taxes and that the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court had ignored evidence in reaching its verdict.

Hoter-Yishai was convicted last month for his handling of his father's income in 1990 and 1991. He was sentenced to a six-month suspended sentence and fined NIS 50,000.

Hoter-Yishai said he would resign as head of the Bar Association if his appeal is rejected.

ed.

In the 36-page appeal, Hoter-Yishai's attorney Yehuda Tunik alleges that Judge Ziva Hadassi-Herman offered strange explanations for ignoring much of the evidence, that the judge's interpretation of certain documents was wrong and that the court prevented his client from summoning defense witnesses.

The conviction and verdict are "unmistakenly disconnected from the evidence," the appeal says.

The appeal also claims that Hoter-Yishai was harmed by a delay in the trial, with respect to his duties as Bar Association chairman and other public positions. He says that his client's rep-

utation also took a beating, since during the trial media reports repeatedly associated Hoter-Yishai with "criminal acts."

Hoter-Yishai was indicted only at the end of 1996, or more than five years after the tax evasion occurred, and the trial lasted more than a year.

Hoter-Yishai also objects to Judge Hadassi-Herman's condemnation of his outburst against the courts after the verdict was read, and maintains that he "never threatened or insulted anyone." Hoter-Yishai had accused the court of trickery and called the verdict stupid.

Poland to expedite citizenship for 'March' victims

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Thirty years after thousands of Jews were forced to flee Poland in a virulent antisemitic and "anti-Zionist" campaign, President Aleksander Kwasniewski said he will expedite the renewal of their citizenship.

About a dozen — most of them from Israel — are to have their Polish citizenship restored this week, according to published reports. Some 12,000-20,000 Jews or people of Jewish origin were forced to renounce their citizenship to escape Poland during a communist campaign against dissidents and intellectuals that was fraught with antisemitic overtones. The campaign during March 1968 is known today simply as "March."

"I declare that all those who left Poland due to the March events can depend that, once

their applications arrive, the president's office will take all steps to grant them Polish citizenship," Kwasniewski's office said Monday in a statement published in *Rzeczpospolita* newspaper. "Great are the losses of Polish society which because of the March emigration lost many enlightened and loyal citizens."

March 8 was the 30th anniversary of the day when a mob, orchestrated by a nationalist faction within the Communist Party, attacked Warsaw students who were protesting for freedom. The attack came amid a heightened anti-intellectual climate in which Jews — some of Poland's leading thinkers, artists, and authors — were intimidated at workplaces and universities and vilified in the press.

In a ceremony Sunday, a plaque was unveiled at Warsaw's Gdansk station, from which many left by train, with an inscription

commemorating "those who travelled out of Poland after March 1968 with one-way travel documents."

"We remember and we are ashamed," Kwasniewski said at another ceremony honoring two human-rights activists of the time. "It is not they who abandoned Poland. Poland abandoned them. We must put this right."

"Technical" problems prevented a universal and automatic restoration of citizenship to those who had been renounce citizenship under duress, because some now live in states that do not recognize dual nationality, aides to Kwasniewski said.

Not all supported Kwasniewski's move. Some commentators, mainly on the right, argue that the 1968 events were typical of the communist system as a whole and that communism, not Poland, bears the blame.

Sternberg wins Templeton Prize

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Sir Sigmund Sternberg, a British-Jewish businessman with close connections to Israel and one of the world's leading figures in the interfaith movement, is this year's recipient of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, the world's largest annual monetary award.

The prize, begun in 1972 by global investing pioneer Sir John Templeton, is given each year to a living person who has shown extraordinary originality in advancing humankind's understanding of God and/or spirituality. This year it is valued at about \$1.23 million.

Previous recipients include Mother Teresa, the late president of India Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former British chief rabbi Lord Jakobovitz, and Billy Graham.

Sternberg has for many years been the chairman of the executive committee of the International Conference of Christians and Jews. In 1985, as a result of his efforts to create bet-

ter understanding between religions, he was made a papal knight, one of the only Jews to ever have been accorded the honor. This, in turn, made it possible for him to meet repeatedly with Catholic and Polish leaders and thus play a leading role in reaching the agreement to relocate the convent at Auschwitz.

Sternberg was born in Hungary in 1921 and in 1939 came to England, where he became involved in the metal industry. He was a founding member of the Labor Finance and Industry Group, an association of business leaders who support Britain's Labor Party. He was the founder of the Sternberg Center for Judaism, headquarters of the Reform movement in Britain.

In Israel, he has long been a member of the board of governors of the Hebrew University and he was the founding patron of the Inter-Religious Coordinating Council in Israel, an umbrella organization of institutions promoting inter-religious and inter-cultural understanding.

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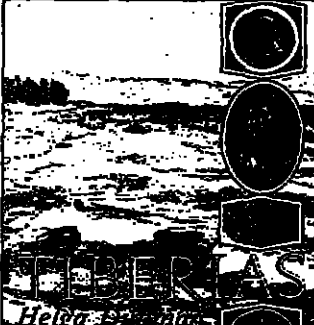
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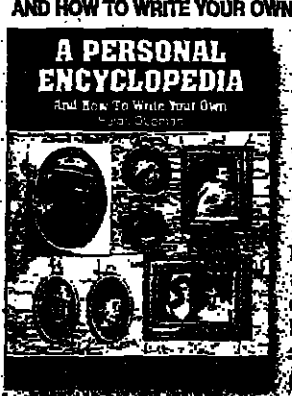
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A broken mirror

The former Yugoslavia has been in the news – primarily the bad news – for most of this decade. Millions of words and images have been written and broadcast on the various subjects filed under that one word “Yugoslavia.” At the end of it all, is anyone any the wiser about what is going on with these people? What do they want?

The American writer PJ. O'Rourke was dumfounded after a visit to former Yugoslavia. “You know,” he said, “if everybody fighting there were absolutely everything they want, they would still have nothing except bloody Yugoslavia.” Each piece of this cracked nation has its own reflection, like a broken mirror.

If you have to research “the Yugoslav problem,” some of the key words you must supply would be: Balkans, Yugoslavia, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia (with or without Herzegovina), Montenegro, Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia. (Civilized Slovenia alone has always kept an aloof and dignified distance from the surrounding mess – a blessed land indeed.)

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

long road to enlightenment. The gist of this mind bender was that Moslems in the Balkans aren't really Moslems, but Orthodox Serbs led astray by Ottomans. (That's the emperors, not the couches.) The dismembering of Bosnia therefore was no more than a sacred Serbian duty, like household cleansing in springtime.

Coincidentally, my mail box soon began to fill with close-typed but unsigned, address-free tirades from the Jewish Solidarity Friends Organization, postmarked Chicago or Tel Aviv or Miami. Misspelled and semiliterate – de rigueur, apparently, for writing in the pornography genre – these consisted mostly of imaginative descriptions of the sexual delights enjoyed by female CNN reporters with Hizbullah, in return for favorable coverage of Moslem terrorist enemies of the saintly Serbian people.

Male Western reporters in Bosnia were much more boring – they were merely the paid agents of Iranian-Hizbullah-Hamas armies that would sweep across Europe and Israel were it not for the gallant ethnic cleansing of you-know-who.

What was interesting about this dirty Balkan war was how all the tools of murder, hatred and the propaganda of fragmentation that we correspondents covered in Lebanon in the 1980s fitted perfectly into Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

No bright spark

There was too a useless United Nations intervention, hostages chained to fences, mass exterminations, the “peacekeepers” turned a blind eye to.

And now, this week, welcome to Kosovo. This small triangle of southern Serbia wedged between Albania and Macedonia is undoubtedly Serbian territory (unlike Bosnia), even if it is ethnically 90 percent Albanian and Moslem.

There is a separatist movement, but it would not be quite so active if Slobodan Milosevic had not so recklessly abolished Kosovo's autonomy in 1989, turning it into one of those well-known “Balkan powder kegs” waiting for a spark.

Milosevic may not be a bright spark, but he is a dangerous one. The reckless rampage (“anti-terrorist police action”) in Kosovo proves it. “The bodies of 51 ethnic Albanians... a few burned beyond recognition, included 25 women and small children,” wrote Chris Hedges of *The New York Times* from the village of Prekaz. “Most bore the small, dark-red holes of bullet wounds. Some of their skulls were shattered, some had been decapitated.” Some anti-terrorist campaign. Of this group of 51 “terrorists” 25 were women and children, a better gender balance in any enterprise than you will find anywhere in the rest of Serbia.

It happened March 8. It was Mr. Milosevic's contribution to International Women's Day.

Road not taken

The then-editor summoned himself and myself to Jerusalem for a cozy coffee and exchange of views. It turned into a furtive exchange of dismayed glances as the two of us sat transfixed before the third, a huge man in a luminous green suit who began somewhere in the year 1250 and two hours later had reached 1475 in what apparently was to be our very, very

Pinochet still chills Chileans

Despite his resignation from the military, the dictator's legacy continues to split his nation

By ANTHONY FAIOLA

SANTIAGO, Chile – Gen. Augusto Pinochet, one of the last vestiges of South America's age of military domination, has retired as Chile's army commander after 24 years – including 17 as dictator of a country now bitterly divided by his role in its history.

The landmark retirement of Pinochet, 82, who allowed a transition to a democratically elected presidency in 1990 after a national plebiscite voted down his dictatorship, represents the passing from the military of one of Latin America's most significant personalities of this century.

But his retirement ceremony, which took place in front of 8,000 people under tight security at Santiago's Military Academy on Tuesday morning, has been overshadowed by Pinochet's decision to use an option in the Chilean constitution, written during his tenure, that permits him to assume a new job as senator for life.

That decision has spurred thousands of Chileans into the streets in shows of protest – and of support – underscoring just how deeply Pinochet has polarized this nation since he took power in a coup in 1973.

For several days here in the capital, there have been hordes of police, demonstrations and massive media coverage, such as a series in one national magazine about the “secrets” of Pinochet's army, including details of the brief kidnapping of a crusading politician's son in 1992 to silence his investigation into military wiretapping.

“We will not be able to move on in Chile as long as Pinochet remains in some form of power,” said Teresa Herrera, 47, a torture victim from the Pinochet era, who chanted protest slogans at a rally outside the National Library Monday.

In recent weeks, opponents have felt emboldened enough to file legal petitions against Pinochet, seeking to hold him accountable for the thousands of dissidents who “disappeared” or were tortured during his rule.

Members of the center-left coalition now governing Chile are debating a challenge to the gener-



Just say no: A demonstrator stands next to a picture of Gen. Augusto Pinochet during a protest against the former dictator this week. (AP)

al's right to a seat in the Senate, despite an effort by President Eduardo Frei this week to quell the move on the grounds of “national unity.”

“I feel a lot of shame for my country,” said Juan Pablo Letelier, a member of congress whose father, former Chilean ambassador Orlando Letelier, was assassinated in Washington in 1976 by Pinochet's secret police.

“This must be the only case in the world where an ex-dictator ends up retiring with a seat in the same congress he himself closed down,” Letelier said.

But Pinochet's supporters, who are in the minority but tend to be some of the most powerful and wealthiest people in Chile, view him as a national savior, a man who toppled a communist government and transformed this country into the region's economic dynamo. And they have been just as vocal.

Indeed, this week, Pinochet received a vow of loyalty and an additional title from the army, which made him “meritorious commander in chief.” While largely symbolic, the move was viewed by some here as saber-ranting by the most domestically powerful

army in South America. It was a sign, experts said, that the military would protect their patriarch from any serious threat.

But most agree that Chileans, who went through much of the 1990s with a collective amnesia, choosing not to focus on the violence of the past, will not push the Pinochet issue to the point of putting him on trial.

Although there are unprecedented investigations under way against Pinochet, and some feisty lawmakers are calling for legislation that would force him to reveal financial holdings he obtained

during the dictatorship, he is widely considered untouchable because of amnesty laws, his ample military backing and right-wing support in the Senate.

Pinochet will soon trade in his Prussian-style general's uniform for a civilian's suit and take his lifetime seat in the upper house.

“The general is feeling quite emotional right now,” said retired Gen. Alejandro Medina Lois, a former Pinochet aide. And whether you are for him or against him, you cannot deny that he has had a permanent impact on our country.” (The Washington Post)

A Mormon imprint on Britain

By HELEN SMITH

CHORLEY, England – The great slabs of glossy polished granite came from Tunisia, the woodwork is American cherry and the angel statue atop the towering spire is plated with 24-karat gold.

“Only the best of materials go into the building and the workmanship is to the highest standards,” says Bryan Grant of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which is building a gigantic temple on a hilltop in Chorley, northwest England. The temple, which stands beside a busy road and is visible for many miles, is reported to have cost £50 million (\$82.1 million), but Grant considers money, talk distasteful.

“We don't publish those figures,” he says. “But nothing has been skimped on.” The ghostly grey temple is by far the biggest and most lavish religious building to go up in Britain for many decades and it

stands testimony to the huge influence, and enormous wealth, of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, better known as the Mormons.

The church, whose celebrity members include the unlikely 1970s pop phenomenon the Osmonds, is now the fastest growing religion in Britain.

Membership here has grown more than six-fold since the mid-1960s to 180,000. “People are attracted to us because we are a family church in a world that is going to hell in a hand basket in family terms,” says Grant, fixing the reporter with a beatific, blue-eyed gaze.

“Also,” he adds, “we have answers to the great questions in life.” Equally important are numerous Mormon missionaries – young men with tidy haircuts and conservative suits who travel in pairs knocking on doors and usually getting a pretty frosty reception.

The sons of Mormon families are expect-

ed to do two years of missionary work, in which they may contact their families only twice a year – at Christmas and on their mother's birthday, when they may telephone home.

Grant's three eldest sons have done their missions and his fourth “will get it in the neck from his brothers and his mother” if he doesn't fulfill his duty.

“I've had three boys that went out into the mission field and three men came back,” says Grant.

There are currently 1,600 Mormon missionaries at work in Britain and the new temple complex includes a 108-room guest house where missionaries undergoing training can stay.

Cult-watchers in Britain are troubled by the rapid growth of the Salt Lake City, Utah-based church.

Doug Harris of Reach Out, a Christian charity that helps people who have been involved with cults, fears Mormon con-

verts are being duped.

“We are concerned they [the Mormons] are giving themselves the title of Christian, when their belief system is not Christian,” said Harris.

Critics are also suspicious of the way the church surrounds its ceremonies in secrecy.

The Mormons consider themselves the only true Christians, whose teachings were revealed to their founder Joseph Smith in a series of visions in the early 19th century.

According to Mormon teachings, God and Christ appeared together to direct Smith to re-establish the church in the way they had intended and which, say the Mormons, had been lost to other Christians.

Grant, a rotund, fair-haired man in late middle age, quotes Christian scriptures to assert the validity of Mormon practices, such as the baptism of dead ancestors.

See MORMON, Page 7

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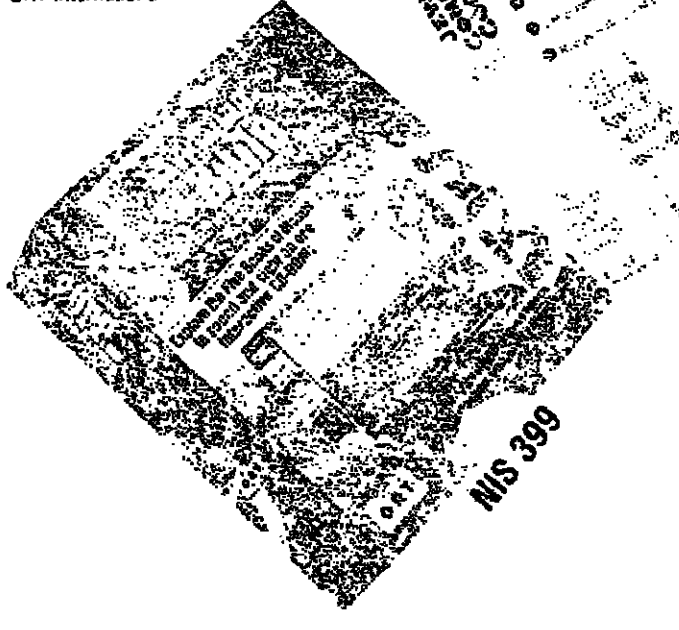
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Suharto gets seventh term

By IAN MACKENZIE

JAKARTA (Reuters) — President Suharto was reelected for a seventh five-year term yesterday as Indonesia said it would send a top-level team to Washington for talks with the International Monetary Fund and the US on its economic crisis.

Thousands of students held peaceful protest rallies across the nation against Suharto's reelection, but the 76-year-old president was returned unanimously by the mostly hand-picked People's Consultative Assembly (MPR).

Fuad Bawazier, director-general of taxes and strongly tipped to be the new finance minister, told reporters the government's chief economic adviser, Widjojo Nitisastro, would leave for Washington next Tuesday at the head of a top-level delegation.

The IMF and the US have been at odds with Indonesia over an IMF reform program aimed at restoring investor confidence in the country, shaken by a huge 75 percent plunge in the rupiah since July.

They have said Indonesia has not shown sufficient commitment to the reforms, agreed in exchange for a \$40 billion bail-out package arranged by the IMF.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told a seminar in Washington on Monday the Indonesian problem threatens efforts to restore Asian financial stability.

"We still believe that if this problem is not solved soon, the whole thing is at risk," he said. President Bill Clinton sent former vice president Walter Mondale to Jakarta earlier this month to discuss with Suharto the need to implement the reform package, but Washington officials said later the feedback from the autocratic former army general was disappointing.

The 1,000-member MPR, the country's top constitutional body, earlier went through the scripted reelection of Suharto. The assembly rose and applauded as members returned Suharto for a further five-year term by acclamation.

He will be inaugurated today, when his close associate, Research

and Technology Minister Jusuf Habibie, is set to be elected vice-president.

Suharto, who came to power at a time of bloodshed and economic collapse in the mid-1960s, now faces some of the stiffest challenges in a political career he has built on stability and development. He signed a new agreement with the IMF in mid-January, and says he remains committed to its terms. But he has also told world leaders who have urged him to push through the reforms — including Clinton and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl — that the IMF package is not working.

Banking sources said he is still considering whether or when to fix the rupiah rate through a currency board system in an effort to strengthen the rupiah to an acceptable level. The rupiah's collapse since last July sparked riots in a number of towns as prices and unemployment soared. It has also forced many companies into technical bankruptcy and devastated trade.

The MPR on Monday night approved unspecified special powers for the president. The scope of the powers was not made public but legislators said they would enable Suharto to act quickly in an emergency.

In late morning trade yesterday, the rupiah was about 10,650 to the dollar, little changed from Monday's closing levels. In July, the rupiah was around 2,400 to the dollar.

The stock market was virtually static, with the composite index around 494 points.

The debate over IMF reforms took on added heat last week when the IMF put off until April an executive board meeting that had been due to decide on a \$3 billion balance of payments tranche set for disbursement on March 15.

Economic analysts said the delay could quickly deplete Indonesia's foreign exchange reserves as it grapples with subsidized food imports to keep prices stable and a guarantee of bank liabilities and deposits.

The IMF has said the delay is due to the need to discuss economic figures and targets with the new cabinet that Suharto will



Students of Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta University near Jakarta protest against the Suharto-led government in the lead-up to yesterday's presidential elections.

name later this month.

Government sources however said the delegation heading for Washington would have to include some of Suharto's new ministers and an announcement on the cabinet is therefore likely as early as the end of the week.

Thousands of students held protest rallies inside university campuses against Suharto's reelection, but there was no violence since they did not venture out onto the streets. Witnesses said protests took place at universities in Jakarta and

the cities of Bandung, Yogyakarta, and Surabaya.

Armed troops and police blocked campus gates as the students protested, enforcing a government ban on political gatherings for one week before and after the March 1-11 MPR session.

Future remains cloudy

JAKARTA (Reuters) — Despite unprecedented criticism over his handling of Indonesia's worst economic crisis in decades, there never was any doubt President Suharto would get a seventh five-year term.

Sticking to the widely accepted script, the country's top constitutional body, the 1,000-member People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), unanimously reelected the 76-year-old autocratic former army general yesterday. He was the only candidate and he had handpicked most of the assembly.

But questions persist about his ability — as well as that of the man to be elected vice-president today, Research and Technology Minister Jusuf Habibie — to pull Indonesia out of its dire economic troubles.

Of greatest concern was a stand-off with the International Monetary Fund, with which Indonesia has signed an agreement on economic reforms in exchange for a \$40 billion bail-out. The IMF has postponed the second \$3 billion tranche from the bail-out, and Suharto has been quoted as saying the reforms go against the nation's constitution.

However, both sides now appear to be pulling back from a confrontation, with Indonesia reiterating there would be no going back on the reforms. The IMF has slated a review in April prior to disbursement of the tranche, and agency head Michel Camdessus said Asia could be at risk if Indonesia's problems were not resolved speedily.

But with Suharto still not showing his hand on a proposal for a currency board system and with the shape of his cabinet still unknown, a sense of uncertainty hangs over the nation's political and economic landscape, political analysts said. "He is acting as if he has a trump card. It's brinkmanship. But does he really have that card?" said former ruling party legislator Marzuki Darusman in an interview. "What seems to be coming out is a compromise between the IMF and Suharto, so it is IMF plus Suharto. We have reached the point where both would have to concede a bit."

Though there is no organized opposition beyond a chorus of fragmented student protests and a wave of food price riots last month that had no political focus, Suharto has been the target of more criticism than ever before.

"Politically he's still in charge, but at the same time the room for expressing views and even criticism has opened up in recent years," Darusman said.

Students on campuses across the politically-important island of Java have called for a new president as well as economic and political reforms — which in

the past would have been enough to haul them up on charges of subversion.

The government banned protests for one week before and after the March 1-11 MPR session, and armed troops have been posted at the gates of campuses to prevent students from venturing outside.

Another common protest theme has been a call for government action to lower the prices of basic commodities, which have skyrocketed because of last

year's drought and the monetary crisis that has depreciated the rupiah by almost 80 percent.

The government has said it would subsidize the import of food to prevent prices from getting out of hand.

Using often veiled references to monopolies and nepotism, critics have charged that Suharto has used public policy in recent years to protect the private business interests of his friends and family.

"I think it is a general opinion in the public that he loves his children more than he loves his people," analyst Mochtar Buchori, an adviser to ousted minority party leader Megawati Sukarnoputri, said in an interview. "He doesn't care if people will only eat once a day but when the richest of his children become threatened then he will really fight to protect his children."

Suharto has six children, who have amassed wealth from business interests. Many say his policies are fashioned to ensure their interests and government concessions are untouched or even widened.

A source close to the family said such criticism is unfounded. "He listens to them [his children] as business people, but if he accepted everything they suggested Indonesia would not have developed the way it has in the past three decades," the source said.

The ruling Golkar party continues to back Suharto, seeing him as the country's best candidate in a time of crisis. "There are many qualified candidates among the 200 million [population], but we need a figure like Suharto with his long experience in order to bring the country toward the 21st century," Golkar legislator Din Syamsuddin said.

If there has been any muted criticism within the ruling elite, it has been directed at Habibie.

"There are a lot of questions surrounding Habibie which will have to be clarified during the early months or weeks when he is finally elected," Darusman, deputy chairman of official National Commission on Human Rights, said. "In the first year, both the public and Habibie will have to come to terms with each other."

US seeking Serb-Albanian dialogue

By JOVAN KOVACIC

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) — A US special envoy was due in Kosovo yesterday seeking to open a dialogue between Serbia and ethnic Albanians in its troubled southern province and head off punitive sanctions against Belgrade.

Robert Gelbard flew to Belgrade for talks with Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic on Monday, immediately after five Western powers agreed to impose economic sanctions on Belgrade and threaten tougher ones.

The US and major European powers, apart from Russia, agreed in London to bar government credits to Serbia and threatened to freeze its assets abroad unless it halts violence against Albanians in Kosovo and starts talks with them on restoring the province's autonomy.

After lengthy talks with Milosevic, who has told other countries to keep out of what it says is an internal matter, Gelbard said he had briefed the Yugoslav leader on the outcome of the London talks.

"I listened to his account of events in

Kosovo and I expressed very strong views of my government regarding the need for very urgent dialogue and a political solution to the future of Kosovo," he told reporters after the talks.

Belgrade reacted to the sanctions by saying Kosovo Albanian leaders must first publicly renounce "terrorism and secession" before talks with Serbia could begin.

Information Minister Radmila Milentijevic told Reuters: "Once these two things are accomplished, we can sit at the table as reasonable people and look at all the various problems and look for political solutions in a peaceful and meaningful way."

He said Belgrade would study the sanctions threat "very, very carefully," but insisted that Serbs want even-handed treatment from the international community.

The official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, in a tougher response, accused the Big Powers of trying to usurp the authority of the UN Security Council, where sanctions would be subject to a Russian or Chinese veto.

"These countries are doing what even the UN Security Council does not do — interfer-

ing in the internal affairs of a sovereign country," Tanjug said.

In Kosovo's capital Pristina, the leader of the main ethnic Albanian political party LDK, Ibrahim Rugova, declared two days of mourning for those killed in police operations last week.

On Monday at least 50,000 Albanians held a peaceful demonstration in Pristina in protest over the killings by Serb police, who said they were only targeting hard-line separatist guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

LDK officials said the dead included 14 women and 12 children and reported that families are refusing to bury them until autopsies had been performed by foreign pathologists.

But the Western sources said later that a number of bodies were collected during the day and at least one was buried.

Serbian police put the unclaimed bodies of 46 Albanians under cover for the night on Monday, Western sources said.

In London, ministers of the six-member Contact Group — the US, Russia, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy — did manage to reach agreement on a joint statement say-

ing: "The violent repression of non-violent expression of political views is completely indefensible." "The situation in Kosovo cannot be resolved by heavy-handed policing activity, and the international community will not tolerate the use of the police in such a repressive way as we have seen over the past week, with so many deaths," British Foreign Minister Robin Cook told a news conference.

The six also called for former Spanish premier Felipe Gonzalez, who helped broker a stalemate between Milosevic and the Serbian opposition in 1996, to mediate in Kosovo on behalf of the 54-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

They also demanded that Belgrade allow the UN commissioner for human rights to investigate the situation in the province.

In another international initiative, five Balkan neighbors — Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Turkey, and Macedonia — were working on a statement, due to be finalized yesterday, calling for a peaceful solution in Kosovo and greater autonomy for its minorities, but within existing borders.

Kosovo: The next Bosnia?

BACKGROUND

By MICHAEL GOODMAN

her large family into the woods.

That offensive wound up Sunday with Serbian forces in control of two near-deserted villages, Donji Prekaz and Lausa, their apparent targets. Journalists escorted through the vicinity by bus said that about half of the 50 homes in Donji Prekaz had been heavily damaged or destroyed.

Among them were family compounds belonging to Adem Jassari and Bajram Lustaku. Serbian television identified the two men as senior guerrilla leaders and said they were killed in the assault. Police said they also found four underground bunkers — one storing machine guns and grenades and two others containing beds, operating tables and medical supplies.

The operation to liquidate the heart of Kosovo terrorism has ended, Veljko Daljevic, the Serbian deputy chief of Kosovo province, said Sunday. But few in Kosovo believed the guerrillas were defeated, and police mauling sandbagged junctions kept the area sealed off.

International observers say they are disturbed by parallels here with the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which ended in November 1995, and by the delayed fallout of a civil war that racked neighboring Albania in the first half of 1997.

"This is ultimately a very, very scary scenario," said Kris

Janowski, a spokesman in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, for the Geneva-based UN refugee agency. "We are alarmed because we have seen it all before."

There were widespread reports last week of wholesale Serbian attacks on civilians, some carried out by the same black-clad paramilitary Interior Ministry troops that employed such tactics in Bosnia. Among those killed in Kosovo were 10 men of the Ahmeti clan, aged 16 to 50, who, according to surviving relatives, surrendered to police at their family compound in Likosani and were taken away alive.

Their bodies turned up at a morgue.

Ibrahim Rugova, the moderate elected leader of the Kosovo Albanians' shadow government, said the police assault was part of an "ethnic cleansing" campaign to rid Kosovo of non-Serbs.

Western leaders have been pushing Milosevic to negotiate Rugova's demands for autonomy — to no avail. The Yugoslav president made his refusal doubly clear by unleashing the police in Kosovo the same day he was receiving British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook in Belgrade.

Kosovo's future is a purely Yugoslav matter, Milosevic lectured him.

Alarmed by the assault, the United States has pressed in London on Monday its European allies for punitive measures against Milosevic's regime at a meeting of the six-nation Contact Group on the former Yugoslav federation, but opposition from Russia diluted the group's sanction package.

Observers in Yugoslavia wonder

whether anyone — Milosevic, Rugova or any foreign government — can control events in Kosovo now. The fledgling guerrilla army, recently estimated to number 200 fighters, is being fed by Serbian repression, financial contributors in the Albanian diaspora and tens of thousands of guns that have made their way to Kosovo from Communist-era stockpiles in Albania since the conflict there.

"We have all the preconditions for a civil war — long, bloody and with an outcome that will certainly be unfavorable for the Serbian authorities," Milos Vasic, a liberal, independent commentator, wrote last week in the Belgrade magazine Vreme.

While little is known of the guerrilla group and less about its losses in the past week, the police assault could further weaken the unpopular Rugova's nonviolent leadership and prompt more Albanians to take up arms, said Baton Haxhiu, editor of Kosovo's independent Albanian-language newspaper, Koha Ditore.

"Politics is dead in Kosovo. The only politics in Kosovo is the Kosovo Liberation Army," he said. "There is no way back after these events in Drenica."

A bigger fear is that low-intensity combat will spread from Kosovo to neighboring Macedonia, which has a sizable Albanian minority and a Kosovo Liberation Army presence. If that happened, analysts warn, neighboring states such as Serbia and Albania, but also Greece, Bulgaria and even Turkey, might be drawn into a tit-for-tat struggle, again plunging the Balkans into a major war.

Diana funds raise £13m.

LONDON (AP) — The causes that Princess Diana supported in life received £13 million yesterday from initial donations made in her memory by admirers around the world. The money, the first grants from a £40m, and growing memorial fund, will "keep the spirit of the princess very much alive," said Robert Creighton, chief executive of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, which is receiving £1m.

Trustees of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund divided £8m among the six charities to which Diana was formally linked at the time of her death, plus two other causes she kept close ties with. In addition to the hospital, the

charities are Centerpoint for the homeless, the English National Ballet, the Leprosy Mission, the National AIDS Trust, and the Royal Marsden Hospital, which specializes in cancer cases.

"They also get one-time payments of about £1m, each."

A grant of £1m was also awarded to The Osteopathic Center for Children, in recognition of the fact that the princess had been due to launch its fund-raising appeal in September. Another £1m will be distributed to organizations benefiting land mine victims.

The remaining £5m is to be being distributed to 100 other charities that Diana had supported previously.

MORMON

Continued from Page 6

Britain's World War II prime minister Winston Churchill is reported to be among those to have been converted after death.

In 1994, Mormon leaders had to remove the names of 380,000 Jewish Holocaust victims from their list of the posthumously baptized, after Jewish groups protested.

Grant stresses that it is up to the dead ancestor, looking on from the afterlife, to decide whether to accept the "gift" of baptism. Inside the new temple, named the Preston Temple after the nearby town which is home to the longest continuous branch of the Mormon church, is the giant baptismal font.

As is traditional, the white marble font is based on the one found in King Solomon's temple, supported by 12 life-sized carved oxen. Other rooms are set aside for "sealing" ceremonies in which married couples are bound together for all eternity.

The temple is not open to all Mormons, only those who have achieved the right level of "moral cleanliness" and passed a series of interviews with church elders.

The strictures for Mormons include donating one-tenth of their annual income to the church — helping to explain its riches. The Mormon church is already

Britain's third-biggest landowner, owning great swathes of rich farmland in East Anglia as well as large farms in the English midlands.

Grant says the running of farms is part of the church's welfare plan, providing work for Mormons who have none and food for needy church members. The work ethic is central to Mormon teachings and British members include the owners of big companies such as Black and Decker and the Marriott hotel chain.

British media reports speculate that the buying up of farms has more to do with building a new homeland for the chosen people, as the Mormons see themselves, after Armageddon comes.

Nevertheless, the clean-living Mormons, who neither drink nor smoke or hold wild parties, have been largely accepted by their neighbors. Gordon McCully of the Chorley Citizen newspaper says there was some disquiet at first when local people saw the scale of the 12-acre temple site, but there have been few complaints.

The biggest gripe it seems, is that the golden Angel Moroni on top of the temple, has caused interference with local television reception.

"You can't get the channels any more, it is like all snow on them," a nearby neighbor, Jean Thompson, told the Chorley Citizen. (Reuters)

Drastic economic change spreads fear in Brazil

By ANTHONY FAJOLA

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Tracema Maria da Silva is scared. The 61-year-old, who lives in a tiny apartment in a working-class neighborhood in the world's third-largest city, for years had peace of mind as a government office worker who effectively was guaranteed a job for life.

But that, and more, is changing. Brazil is in the midst of one of the globe's most profound economic transitions, from a nation reliant on the government to a free-market economy with more flexible work rules and privatized industry.

As those changes move into their advanced stages, they are shaking society's very foundation, sending a ripple of fear through the typically festive Brazilians as they begin to realize just how different things may become in the world's fifth most populous nation.

"I'm terrified of the future," da Silva said recently.

The measures come as Brazil struggles to emerge as the hemisphere's second-largest economic force — and to fend off an Asian-style economic collapse at the same time.

An example of the new medicines proposed by the government — a minor step overall, but a giant one for people like da Silva

— is legislation making its way toward President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's desk that would give greater flexibility to federal and local governments in hiring and firing workers.

"We are in the middle of modernizing the labor force in Brazil — making a connection, finally, between job performance and job rewards," Finance Minister Pedro Malan said in an interview.

The new laws also would dramatically limit retirement benefits for those in the upper ranks of government employment. That change — along with new, pro-business contracts with private-sector labor unions and an upcoming government overhaul of the public and private pension systems that will raise the minimum retirement age — is seen as deeply intimidating by many Brazilians and has led some workers to stage violent protests.

INDEED, THE labor reforms, which economists say are necessary if Brazil is to survive the economic turbulence that is sweeping the globe, represent the most significant challenge in the Cardoso administration's quest to overhaul the economy.

But they have caused the general popularity of Brazil's free-market transition — and of Cardoso himself — to falter, especially in the segment of society

that has been disproportionately dependent on the government.

According to Brazilian government figures, about 60 million people between ages 16 and 60 are considered part of the "official" work force, including about 13.2 million employed in the public sector.

Under existing law, once those public employees retire, they are entitled to their full salaries for the rest of their lives — bloating public payrolls, especially for state and local governments.

The new laws are aimed at slimming that down.

Cardoso signed a bill late last year, as part of his response to the Asian crisis, to shrink government payrolls by 30,000 workers, a number that will grow after he signs the labor bills that are in final debate in Congress after winning initial approval.

"It's not fair," said da Silva, who worked most of her life as a government secretary in a dreary Sao Paulo office building.

"We've dedicated our lives to this government. And now I feel like we are being betrayed. They want to [sell us out] to foreigners to show that the government is doing something" to protect the economy.

Supporters of labor reforms, however, say the government is not moving fast enough. Although the new laws would

force staff reductions on Brazilian states that spend more than 60 percent of their budget on salaries — and most states fall into that category — this is an election year, and there is much skepticism that state governors will act quickly.

"It will be politically difficult to shrink work forces in many Brazilian states quickly, especially since there are currently needs to hire more employees in some states, such as teachers, despite the fact that the states cannot afford any more employees," said Simon Schwartzman, president of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics in Rio de Janeiro.

Some reform advocates say Brazil must swallow even harsher measures, and much more quickly, if it is to avoid Asia's severe problems and continue to attract the foreign capital needed to finance the economic transition.

They are calling for sweeping corporate tax reforms that would crack down on Brazil's massive informal economy of workers paid under the table, and on employers who don't contribute to the nation's money-losing pension system. Such measures are viewed as much tougher for Cardoso, who is seeking re-election in October.

"It might seem like a big thing

to workers, but what we're really seeing in Brazil right now are little baby steps when what we need are giant changes in government policy toward labor," said Celso Luiz Martone, partner in MCM Consultants, a Sao Paulo-based economic-analysis firm.

"We're moving in the right direction, but we're moving too slow."

BRAZIL, WITH 164 million people and one of the most skewed income distributions in the world, is the industrial heart of Latin America and by far the largest economy in the region — almost twice the size of Mexico's, for instance. As a result, Brazil is widely viewed as a bellwether for Latin America.

Its economic transition began three years ago, when Cardoso, once a student of Karl Marx, launched the "real plan," which pegged the national currency, the real, to the US dollar to end hyperinflation.

At the same time he launched a program to privatize Brazil's state-run industries.

The plan, although successful in ending the inflationary spiral that hit the poor the hardest, ran into obstacles in October, when the Asian crisis forced Brasilia's central bank to double annual interest rates to 43 percent to stave off an attempted devaluation of the real by speculators.

Although interest rates are down to 36%, and will drop again in two weeks, defending the currency has meant a massive credit crunch and slowed economic growth to a predicted 1% this year — compared with predictions of 6% growth in neighboring Argentina.

Cardoso's aim of sparing the country from hyperinflation — once so bad that the prices of some goods doubled in less than an hour — has been achieved so far.

But the defense of the currency has increased unemployment.

Government estimates say joblessness has risen from 5% to 6%, as companies have cut back on production because, ironically, high interest rates are preventing many Brazilians from buying the consumer products that only recently had been brought within their grasp with the end of hyperinflation.

Labor unions say government figures don't tell the whole story and that unemployment in Sao Paulo, for instance, is a whopping 16%.

Cardoso has seized on the Asian crisis to persuade lawmakers that now is the time to force long-needed labor reforms on Brazil. But many union leaders view Cardoso's labor policies as an assault on the working class.

They take special exception to a proposal to raise the minimum retirement age in Brazil to 55 for women and 60 for men.

Under existing rules, women can retire after 25 years of work and men after 30 years, regardless of age.

While setting a minimum age would, by some estimates, represent a savings of 1% of gross domestic product, opponents argue it would hurt the poor the most. Many poor people, who typically have retired as early as their late 40s and early 50s because they began work as teenagers, often as young as 13 or 14, would have to work years longer.

But Malan argues that most of the very poor work in the informal economy and, because they neither pay into nor receive benefits from the social-security system, already are forced to keep working into old age. And by revamping the pension system, he said, Brazil will reduce its budget deficit and increase investor confidence, creating jobs.

"It's a myth that this will hit the poor worse," he said.

"The reality is that the contributions into our [pension system] today are less than the stream of benefits flowing out. If we can fix that, we've taken a big step." (Washington Post)

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Hollywood may stage a walkout

By CLAUDIA ELLER and JAMES BATES

Hollywood's decade of labor peace may be ending. This week, representatives of the Screen Actors Guild sat down in earnest with producers for what promises to be the most contentious negotiations in years, largely over the age-old issue of residuals, the amount paid when shows are rerun.

Some believe the gap between the sides is so wide that it could prompt the first strike by actors in 18 years and the first by a major Hollywood union in a decade. Many studios and producers are already taking precautions in case SAG members walk out this summer. A lengthy strike would be a devastating blow not only to the entertainment business itself but to Southern California's economy as a whole.

The last major entertainment industry strike came in 1988 when the Writers Guild of America went out for 22 weeks in a walkout that cost the industry and writers an estimated \$500 million. Actors, whose current contract expires June 30, last struck in July 1980, causing havoc with that year's fall TV schedule until they went back to work in October of that year.

Any lengthy disruption of television's fall schedule or feature film production today would ripple through Southern California, far more than it ever has. Since the last strikes, entertainment has moved to the forefront of the Southern California economy. An estimated 262,000 people work in the core business of TV and movies. Hollywood fears what is called a "de facto strike" almost as much as the real thing.

Because of the lead times involved in getting projects financed, signing actors and direc-

tors, booking sound stages and the numerous other logistics, the mere possibility of a strike can cripple production. Should talks drag on into April and May with few signs of progress, many projects are likely to get put on hold and financing for independent filming could dry up.

Indeed, a handful of projects are in limbo already. Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer/United Artists, headed by studio veteran Frank Mancuso, has moved up the start dates to two of its upcoming movies, *Carrie 2* and *Toby's Story*, to the end of April to avoid getting shut down if a strike hits.

Sherry Lansing, chairman of Paramount Pictures, said, "We're hopeful there won't be a strike, but obviously we have to prepare as if there could be one." The studio chief added, "We are not starting any movies that cannot be finished before such a strike could occur."

A potential strike could impact TV production even more dramatically than features, since the business operates on a more pressing time schedule. The networks announce their fall prime-time schedules beginning in mid-May with production of new and returning shows typically starting in July.

A strike would force the networks to accelerate their shooting schedules and rely more heavily on news, documentaries, repeats and movies-of-the-week to compensate for the lack of fresh product. Fox network sources say they may begin production early on series after next season's prime time schedules are announced.

Representatives of actors and producers are abiding by a news blackout and won't comment on the talks. But sources close to them say that tensions already have surfaced.

(Los Angeles Times)

'The devil's bride' celebrates 'Vashti's Day'

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Diamanda Galas possesses an extraordinary three-and-a-half-octave range voice that has been described as a devilish answer to Maria Callas. Yet there was a time when she seriously contemplated becoming a concert pianist.

"When I was 14 I played Beethoven's first piano concerto with a symphony orchestra and for about four years I wasn't sure in which musical direction I would go. Today I still yearn for Chopin and play his music at home."

Galas, who was born and raised in San Diego to Greek parents, reminisces that "when I was 11 I realized I have a very special voice. It was as soon as my father told me to stop singing at home. I annoyed him but I was enjoying myself. You see in Greek culture opening your mouth, singing, is a sexual act. So it is okay for the men to do but not for the women."

Galas feels very Greek although you would not guess it from her music. "I don't know what it means but you are born with it and you don't question it. It's simply part of my identity."

Some journalists have described her as the devil, the devil's bride or a wild angel.

"There are a lot of things about American journalists who misunderstand me that make me laugh. I get bored and angered with them and so I make fun of the press in the USA quite often."

So what of her disc *You Must Be Certain of the Devil*?

"What I'm talking about [on the disc] is witches and witch-burning. People should be prepared for anything, you can't hide even if you want to because they will always find you and make a scapegoat out of you. This was done in 1988 - I'm specifically talking about AIDS and the gay community."

Galas seems to be very much aware of the world she lives in. She even knows that her coming performance is on Purim, or as she calls it "Vashti's day." And Vashti as a symbol of beautiful women brings Galas to the issue she is most concerned with: The status of women in today's world.

"I can't walk for five minutes in the street without hearing at least 10 harassing sexual remarks. So either you make a decision to fight against it or you hide. Now I'm much too flamboyant to hide, why would I do something so stupid?"

As for the impression she would like to leave on her audience, "I leave it up to them. I don't tell people what to think. I only tell them what I think."

Diamanda Galas can be heard on the sound track of Derek Jarman's *Last of England* and in Coppola's *Dracula*, but now we have the opportunity to hear her live.

Diamanda Galas performs her one woman show "Malediction and Prayer" at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center tomorrow night at 10.



Nini hires the IPO

Following the successful concerts of Ahinoam Nini and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra last season, Nini decided to record most of the material from the concerts and hired the IPO for the sessions. It is the first time in IPO history that the orchestra has performed for one light-music artist on an entire disc. The new disc, 'Ahinoam Nini and the Philharmonic,' will be released next month.

(Text: Michael Ajzenstadt)

The NIO's progress

By HELEN KAYE

The best news is that the New Israeli Opera is starring more Israeli singers in next year's line-up. Good news is that it's a lush season for opera lovers with the Israeli debuts of Verdi's *Lucia di Lammermoor* (October) and Donizetti's thrillingly tragic *Lucia di Lammermoor* (May '99). Altogether, the NIO's '98/99 season presents an intriguing roster of new productions and popular revivals. As well as those mentioned, the new productions are *The Rake's Progress* (April '99) by Stravinsky, Mozart's *Coste fan tutte* (Feb/March '98) and another Mozart, *The Little Magic Flute* (November).

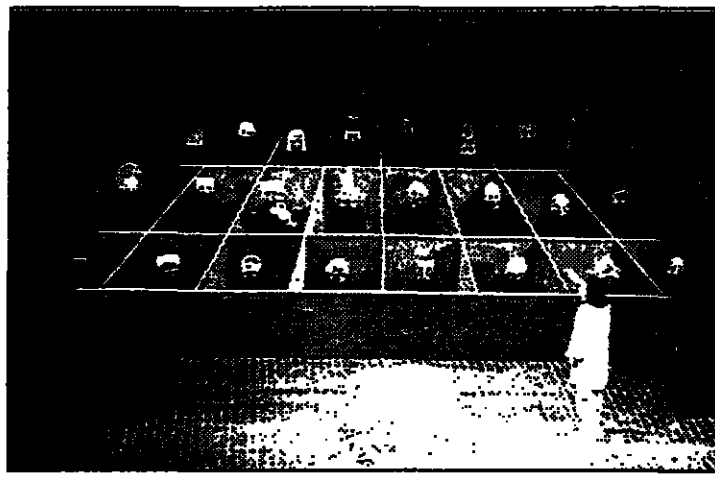
The revivals, all local hits, are *Madama Butterfly* (December) by Puccini, Massenet's *Werther* (January '98) and, best of all, Omri Nitzan's delicious production of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'amore* (June '98), the applause for which practically lifted the roof off the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center two years ago.

Falstaff is based on Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and tells the story of fat old Sir John's disfigurement at the hands of the two ladies whose virtue he "assails." The NIO production stars Alessandro Corbelli and Timothy Noble in the title role, and Israeli singers Susanna Poretsky, Anat Efraty and Moti Kaston as, respectively, Meg, Nannetta and Ford.

Who can forget Joan Sutherland singing the mad scene from *Lucia*? Yes, she goes mad, poor thing (Lucia, not Joan), in this story of murder, insanity and suicide based on Sir Walter Scott's novel. The director for this is David Pountney, who created last year's very post-modern *Rigoletto*. Laura Claycomb sings the title role.

Noted English painter David Hockney first did the set and costumes for *The Rake's Progress* at Glyndebourne, and they'll be coming here for the NIO production. UK poet W.H. Auden cowrote the libretto of this modern comic allegory of a man who sells his soul to the devil.

Cost "tests" the constancy of



British artist David Hockney designed the sets and costumes for Stravinsky's 'The Rake's Progress.'

women and in this production, the gifted Hadar Halevi sings Dorabella, one of the two lasses who nearly turn the tables on their doubting lovers. Anat Efraty, also blessed with a gorgeous voice, sings Despina, the girls' clever maid. The NIO performed the opera in 1993 under the direction of Michael McCaffery. For this production it's the eminent Dr. Jonathan Miller, who did *The Magic Flute* with the IPO in the early '90s.

The Little Magic Flute is an abridged, traveling, Hebrew-language version of the same opera bumped from this season. It has an almost all-Israeli cast and McCaffery is to direct. He's an old hand at the NIO, and not even Saddam Hussein managed to ruffle him. When the Gulf War hit in '91, McCaffery was working on *The Bartered Bride*. He stayed, Scuds and all.

The opera's translator is Ehud Manor, who was named 1998 Israel Prize winner for his contribution to Hebrew song. The opera will play in Haifa, Jerusalem and other venues.

There's also *Viva La Voce*, a new series of four vocal concerts performed by the NIO's resident orchestra, the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Lezion, conducted by Mendi Rodin. The music spans two centuries and combines popular favorites (Mozart and Verdi arias) with

more rarely performed works (Berg and Berlioz). Centerpiece of the series is the Swingle Singers performing Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*.

The only fly in this operatic bonny is the continued reliance on foreign stage directors. Surely Omri Nitzan is not the only experienced and gifted director who's willing to invest the time and effort needed to learn what may be a new genre for that person.

When former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat and his first general manager Uri Ofer revived the idea of an Israeli opera 15 years ago, people shrilled "it'll never work." And when the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center was inaugurated on schedule in 1994, a muted opening because it came only days after the first Dizengoff terrorist bombing, most of the same people dourly prophesied "white elephant."

Neither prophecy was fulfilled. TAPAC is booming, presenting a bill of fare that ranges from classical ballet to Boaz Sharabi. The NIO (which is a separate organization but shares the building) sings to nearly full houses (88% capacity) and has 16,000 subscribers.

Subscriptions to the NIO '98/99 season range from NIS 495 to NIS 2016. Subscriptions to the four vocal concerts range from NIS 300 to NIS 540. Naturally, single-event tickets are also available.

NEWS

of the muse

Memorial premiere

On Sunday, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra premiered *Kaddish*, a new work by conductor/composer Elli Jaffe under the composer's baton in a concert dedicated to the memory of seven soldiers, graduates of the Mor Metro West Ra'anana High School and the Kamei Shomron High School Yeshiva, who were killed in combat.

The program also included *Journey Towards the Dreams* by Yonatan Segal, one of the fallen soldiers, as well as songs performed by Shlomo Gronich and Dudu Fisher.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Anat Efraty performs 'Anne Frank' in Vienna

Israeli soprano Anat Efraty will perform Gregory Fried's one-woman opera *The Diary of Anne Frank*, written in 1969, in Vienna in May conducted by Asher Fisch. The work, performed in Israel several years ago by Eva Ben-Zvi, will be presented in German. The opening performance will play to numerous invitees from central Europe.

Michael Ajzenstadt

First woodwind festival in Abu Ghosh

The first woodwinds festival in Israel will take place March 27-28 at the various churches of Abu Ghosh. Some of the leading Israeli woodwind musicians will participate in the six concerts which will showcase music from Bach to Debussy and Gabrieli to Bizet.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Scores of musicians in competition

The Jerusalem Rubin Academy for Music and Dance has announced two competitions, one for composers and the other for singers.

The national competition for Israeli composers within the Brown Roger Siegel Foundation is for writing an eight- to 15-minute work for a female singer and string orchestra, preferably with Hebrew or Arabic text. The competition is open to participants up to 38 years old. The works can be submitted until June 30. The winning compositions will be performed in November 1988 by the Israel Camerata Jerusalem.

The national competition for artistic singing (lieder), through the Salomon and Eva Morein Foundation in honor of Professor Vera Rozsa-Nordell, OBE, will take place between May 6 and 17 and is open to female singers up to 28, and male singers up to age 30. Professor Rozsa-Nordell from London will be chairperson of the jury. For further details and competition regulations, contact Hana Engelrad at (02) 675-9907.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Academy Symposium

Accomplished composers and educators are invited to participate in a symposium at the Rubin Academy at the end of the month. The symposium will include concerts, workshops, lectures and discussions about professional training of young composers towards the 21st century. Some topics to be discussed are contemporary music in theoretical and historical courses, creativity in theoretical studies, universal vs. regional musical language, recent achievements in musical technology, and West-East influences.

Michael Ajzenstadt

Israeli wins music prize in New York

Israeli composer, conductor, flutist and poet Amos Meller was awarded First Prize last week in New York for his *Hagasher Hu Hakesher* ("The Bridge Is the Link"), a work for solo flute and narrator. The competition celebrates the jubilee of the city's George Washington Bridge which links Manhattan and New Jersey. The work will be performed in English with American artists several times during the next two weeks.

Helen Kaye

Jazz variations on an Israeli theme

Every year, the Rimmon School of Jazz and Contemporary Music in Ramat Hasharon holds a schoolwide competition for the best vocals and arrangement of an existing Israeli song. This year's first prizes went to Galia Yaron for her vocal interpretation of Yehudi Ravitz's "Like to Water" (Kmo el Mayim) and to Dadi Weich for his arrangement of "The Dummy's Song" (Shir Hazemel), first performed by the now defunct Kaveret Ensemble. Both are from the class of '98.

Helen Kaye

Grateful Dead resurrected

Members of the Grateful Dead announced last week that they would reunite under a new name, the Other Ones, and play some 30 dates in June and July with Rusty Root and Hot Tuna.

Bruce Hornsby, an occasional member, is to play with the band, but Bill Kreutzmann, one of the band's drummers, was the lone holdout. There will be no replacement for Jerry Garcia, who died in August 1995 at the age of 53, but the band will be joined by two musicians who have played with the Dead's Bob Weir in other bands: Dave Ellis on saxophone and, on guitar, Stan Franks, whose diverse credits include performances with Tupac Shakur to David Murray.

AP

A treasury of ballet music for a song

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Classical music buffs are more than familiar with the various box sets that offer a large number of discs for a relatively low price. Ten discs for NIS 100 or NIS 200 is always an attractive deal.

But one must always be wary of the quality of performances and the recordings, which at times is problematic. Unfortunately, most of these sets come in a sealed box that, more often than not, does not even tell you who the performers are, let alone what they are performing. Make sure that there is a sample box open in the store so that you will know exactly what it is you are buying.

But all these precautions are not relevant in the case of the 10 discs that comprise *The Best of Ballet* (CCT 2588).

Many classical music scores were originally written as ballet music. And many of these ballet scores eventually did reach the concert stage in somewhat condensed versions.

Here you have a chance to listen to quite a lot of ballet music, in fine if not electrifying performances. The set as a whole can give the listener a sense of the various directions ballet music has taken through various periods of time and different places.

Most of the performances are by Eastern European orchestras, particularly from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The conductors are not well-known, but on the whole they are able to deliver the goods, even if at times there are some big problems in overall sounds or interpretation.

Obviously the set features the basic ballet repertoire, like a disc of excerpts from the three Tchaikovsky ballets performed by the Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra in a rather straightforward manner, a Stravinsky

disc with a rather lackluster reading of *Le Sacre du Printemps* by the Philharmonia Slavovska, and a far-from-captivating reading of *The Firebird* by the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra, with Ivan Marinov, the only familiar name in this set, on the podium.

The Debussy and Ravel discs are much more intriguing, even though the *Bolero* is not that interesting in this case. But it is nice to listen to the ballet music of these two composers within the same context.

And the disc of French ballet music, with excerpts from *Giselle* (Adolphe Adam), *Coppelia* (Delibes) and some of the ballet music from Gounod's *Faust* is most delightful although I would have liked to hear more from each score.

The Russian ballet music disc is a real delight, as it features some less familiar numbers from Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina* and both Glinka's *Ruslan and Ludmila* and Ivan Susanin, as well as a fine reading of Glazunov's *The Seasons* by

Marinov and his Sofia orchestra.

One of the best renditions in this set is the performance of the *Carmen Ballet Suite* by Rodion Konstantinovich Shchedrin, performed by the Slovenian Symphony under Anton Nanut.

Everyone who is familiar with Bizet's opera would simply adore this ballet, because it captures the essence of Bizet and adds a very special spice and aroma of its very own, especially through the use of an impressive percussion battery.

There is more in this set, including a disc of ballet music from operas and ballet music by Bartok, De Falla, Ponchielli and others. But this album is recommended primarily for its overall effect and less for the individual discs within it.

If you want a specific work, then do search for an individual recording. But those interested in an overview of the world of ballet music would find it here, with over 10 hours of delightful sounds that ignite the imagination.

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No memorial for a murderer

There is only one park in Kiryat Arba, and that park is named after Rabbi Meir Kahane. In that park, there is one grave, that of Baruch Goldstein, a doctor who massacred 29 Palestinians praying in the Machpela Cave on Purim four years ago. Surrounding the grave is an elaborate plaza, including special lighting and a cabinet for holy books. The grave site has become an obscene memorial to a mass murderer, a situation that is finally about to be rectified by legislation or by military order.

Goldstein was buried in the park in Kiryat Arba, which has no cemetery, in a compromise worked out between the military authority and the family. The family wanted him buried in the Jewish cemetery in Hebron, but the military feared that this would have caused riots in the city. As a temporary solution, it was decided to bury Goldstein in Kiryat Arba.

In November 1994, a military order to demolish the plaza was downgraded to a stop-work order, to appease local Jewish leaders. In hindsight, this bow to extremists was a serious mistake, and resulted in something almost as unthinkable as the massacre itself—the creation of a gathering place for the handful of extremists who supported Goldstein's grotesque crime.

It has taken until this week for the Knesset to finally put its foot down. A Knesset subcommittee met Monday to consider a bill sponsored by Meretz MK Ran Cohen, which would prohibit the memorializing of murderers and terrorists, be they Jewish or Arab. At the last moment, Cohen sought an amendment to his bill to force the transfer of Goldstein's grave to a regular cemetery. The Knesset subcommittee decided to postpone action on the bill, in order to give the Ministry of Defense 10 days to take action on the matter.

Though there was consensus in the committee that all trappings of a memorial must be removed, there was sharp debate over whether the grave should be moved over the objections of Kiryat Arba Rabbi Dov Lior and Goldstein's family.

Regardless of Lior's point of view, there is no excuse for attempting to turn this matter into a halachic debate. Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi Doron previously ruled that, because the grave was supposed to be temporary, there is no halachic obstacle to moving it. Other rabbis

have pointed out that, if anything, the halachic prohibition against burying a "righteous person with a wrongdoer" would apply here.

In the time of the Sanhedrin, executed criminals were buried just outside Jewish cemeteries, in order to indicate society's disapproval of their acts. Veneration of murderers was clearly out of the question. Turning Goldstein's grave into a shrine clearly contradicts the spirit of Halacha. In this case, there is no contradiction between Jewish and national interests—both cry out for the extreme censure of an unjustifiable act.

The rationalization that some point to—that Goldstein was a doctor who was driven to his crime by treating many victims of terrorism—makes the need to utterly reject his action that much greater. The message must be that nothing justifies terrorism, not even terrorism itself.

Within hours of the massacre, President Ezer Weizman called it "the worst thing that has happened to us in the history of Zionism." Less than two years later, another contender for that description occurred, the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. It might be an exaggeration to say that a thread from Goldstein's massacre led directly to Yigal Amir's trigger finger. There could hardly have been a more widespread revulsion from Goldstein's act in Israel. Yet the transformation of his grave into a memorial site revealed that a tiny portion of Israelis actually supports what he did.

Perhaps it is impossible for any democratic society to entirely eliminate violent extremism, such as the neo-Nazi phenomenon in the West. It is no consolation that among Palestinians, terrorists such as Yihya Ayyash are remembered as heroes at official events and mass demonstrations. Yet there is more that Israel should have done after the Goldstein massacre to isolate extremists and inoculate society against their influences, and more that needs to be done today.

Even after Rabin's assassination, we as a nation are still in a state of shock and denial, not really wanting to admit to ourselves that greater religious, educational, and democratic resources need to be brought to bear in the fight to uproot violent extremism. Ending the atrocity of a memorial at Goldstein's grave is a start, and long overdue.

Loose cannon



Assad's bargaining card

MOSHE ZAK

What did Israel achieve by the diplomatic initiative in which it announced its readiness to retreat from the south Lebanon security zone, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425, after the establishment of appropriate security arrangements in the border region?

Why did the prime minister and the defense minister take the trouble of rushing around the capitals of Europe in an attempt to gain support for the plan, even though they knew in advance that the Lebanese government wasn't free to accept the proposal without first gaining approval from Syria?

The government's opponents, both at home and abroad, tried to explain this step as an attempt to distract attention from the central issue of the frozen negotiations with the Palestinians to a side channel.

This interpretation is stupid. The Palestinian question easily outranked the Lebanon proposal and remained at the center of the European Union's diplomatic activity in its contacts with Israel.

However, Israel did gain something from its initiative. The Lebanese government was forced to reveal to its citizens that Israel had made a proposal concerning an IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon, which it couldn't accept because of its dependence on Syria. This was the first result of the Israeli initiative.

Five years ago the Lebanese government closed down a Beirut newspaper for publishing a communication that Lebanon had received from Israel containing details of a plan for IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon. The Lebanese president denied that the government had received the Israeli plan. The Beirut press declared a sympathy strike with the newspaper that was punished for daring to publicize the existence of an Israeli proposal for withdrawal.

But now the Lebanese authorities have been forced to admit that they have indeed received such a

proposal from Israel, and that they totally reject it, since the withdrawal from southern Lebanon must be linked to an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

The Syrian and Lebanese governments even issued a joint statement in Damascus, saying an IDF withdrawal from the Golan is a precondition for a settlement in

How long will the Lebanese sacrifice their own essential interests for the sake of Syrian demands on the Golan?

southern Lebanon. It meant the Lebanese were saying that the Golan Heights, claimed by Syria, is higher on its list of priorities than southern Lebanon, that they were rejecting the Israeli proposal based on criteria originating not in Lebanon but in Syria.

In theory, it's all over. The Beirut government has publicly rejected the Israeli plan. But in practice the file isn't closed; not all Lebanese belong to Hizbullah whose members are willing to suffer, and even to be killed, in order to win a ticket to paradise. The rest of the population wants peace on the frontier, and doesn't want the Israeli Air Force bombing their homes.

And when they find out that their government missed the opportunity to bring peace to the area, not for their sake but because of Syria, they will dare to pressure the government to take steps for the pacification of southern Lebanon through negotiations.

The Russians and the French don't have the same experience as

the Americans concerning linkage between Israeli-Syrian peace and peace with another Arab country. They take seriously Damascus' outspoken statements that there will be no settlement in Lebanon as long as Israel holds on to the Golan Heights.

The Americans made a similar mistake in the past. Five years ago American experts explained that Jordan's King Hussein wouldn't dare sign a peace treaty with Israel as long as there was no peace with Syria. On the basis of this assessment the Americans urged Yitzhak Rabin to make a hypothetical offer to the Syrians saying, "Let's assume that you'll get back the Golan. Will you be willing to give us the next nine clauses in a peace settlement?"

But Warren Christopher, then American secretary of state, came back empty-handed from Damascus. Later it was proved that the concept of Jordan's dependence on Syria—that it wouldn't sign a peace treaty without it—was totally unfounded.

Syria has more leverage on Lebanon than on Jordan. Syria has not yet recognized Lebanon's de jure independence. When the Arab League was founded, Syria objected to the inclusion of Lebanon among the founding members.

But the legend of all-powerful Syria in Lebanon is likely to be debunked, as was the idea that Hussein wouldn't sign a peace treaty with Israel without Syria. The peace treaty with Jordan was signed, and Assad is now searching for the hypothetical proposal that he missed five years ago, when he refused to commit himself to give anything in return. Now Assad is trying to play the Lebanese card in order to make good his loss. But he can't be sure the Lebanese will be willing to suffer forever as the bargaining card that will bring him the Golan.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

'Torture warrants'

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Imagine the following situation: A terrorist is captured. On his person are found plans for the suicide bombing of a crowded area where children congregate. The place and time are unspecified. The actual suicide bomber is at large and on his way to blow up the children. His captured colleague knows his identity, whereabouts and target. But he will not divulge them.

The police put a bag over his head, shout at him, shake him violently and threaten him with bodily harm. As a result, he divulges the information, his colleague is apprehended and the terrorist act is prevented. Should the police be praised or condemned for employing such means to prevent an act of terrorism?

A debate is raging in Israel about whether the courts should permit the anti-terrorist security agencies to continue to employ what is euphemistically called "moderate physical pressure" against captured terrorists in order to obtain information necessary to prevent planned terrorist attacks on civilian targets.

Let us consider an analogy. Every civilized society permits its police to employ lethal force to capture fleeing suspected felons who are reasonably believed to pose a danger of violence if permitted to escape. Such fleeing suspected felons have not necessarily been convicted of any crime and are presumed innocent. Moreover, the danger they are believed to pose may not involve the taking of life. For example, a suspected rapist or armed robber may be shot to prevent escape.

This is by way of background to the difficult question of whether there are any circumstances under which a civilized society may subject a suspected terrorist who is in custody to nonlethal force in order to obtain information believed necessary to prevent a feared terrorist act. Although the two situations pose similar legal,

No other civilized nation has ever tried to involve the judiciary in this dirty aspect of the war on terrorism

philosophical and moral issues, they have not generally been considered in tandem.

In both cases, force is being employed predictably. Its purpose is not punishment. Nor is it to solicit evidence for trial. In the case of the fleeing felon, the purpose is to subject the suspect to trial, and to assure that he does not commit future crimes. In the case of the suspected terrorist, the purpose is to secure information about planned terrorist attacks in order to prevent them.

In the case of the fleeing felon, the law expressly allows lethal force. In other words, the officer may shoot to kill. In the case of the suspected terrorist, the Israeli police may apply physical force which does not endanger life, but which may be frightening or painful.

In the case of the fleeing felon, the likelihood of repeated crime is often speculative and the nature of the feared harm may be less than deadly. In the case of the suspected terrorist, the likelihood of the feared harm may be certain and its nature will often be mass murder.

It would seem to follow that if lethal force can be used as a last resort to prevent the escape of a suspected felon, then nonlethal force can—a fortiori—be used against a suspected terrorist to secure information needed to prevent far more serious harms.

Yet there is something disturbing about a civilized society employing any means that smack of torture. A lethal bullet is not as ugly as a sustained application of force against a prisoner surrounded by cops. But putting aside the esthetic issue, which is really more objectionable?

This is a difficult question—in theory. In practice, every civilized society would in fact torture captured terrorists if necessary to prevent mass murder. But most would do so without explicit authorization—in a back room. In Israel, the decision has been made to take this issue out of the back room and subject it to public debate. The upshot has been that the judiciary must now authorize moderate torture before it is permitted.

This requires judges to dirty their hands by, in effect, issuing "torture warrants." No other civilized nation has ever tried to involve the judiciary in this dirty aspect of the war on terrorism. Whatever the outcome of the controversy, Israel is to be commended for moving this question out of the back room and into the glare of public attention. This is the least that is required in a democracy.

(United Feature Syndicate)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOPES AND DREAMS

I am sure that if a serving official in any civilized country had made the remarks attributed to Mr. Gazit (Mar. 8), all hell would have broken loose. I wonder what the reaction of the Israeli political community would be if a German had made those remarks?

I would remind Mr. Gazit that some of the most virulent Nazi antisemites wore suits and, like Mr. Gazit, had no need to flaunt their hatred on their sleeves. For a Jew in Israel to make statements like those which Mr. Gazit made is a clear indication of a deranged mind. He should be arrested and charged under the same statutes which have been applied to Tatianna Susskin and other batemongers.

As for Mr. Barak's statement that had he grown up in the violent atmosphere of oppression in which the young Palestinian Arabs

were raised, he too would have joined a terrorist group: I can only suppose that Mr. Barak meant that he can sympathize with the plight of those who feel that their hopes and dreams are being destroyed by what they perceive to be an implacable enemy against whom they feel terrorism is a justified means of resistance.

Given those criteria, I wouldn't be surprised if Mr. Barak actually supported the actions of Dr. Goldstein and Mr. Popper, since they too felt their hopes and dreams were being threatened by an implacable enemy against whom they lashed out.

And Ehud Barak intends to assume leadership of the Jewish State?

ARIEH BEN-ISRAEL

Eshhar.

GOLDSTEIN'S GRAVE

Sir, Harry Truman over 50 years ago stated that if you want to settle disputes, you better have in-depth understanding of the other fellow's problems and feelings. Such advice seems especially appropriate for the Middle East today since changes in tone, discourse and behavior could well make a difference.

To promote their cause, 450 Jewish settlers from Hebron and Kiryat Arba built a vest-pocket park in Hebron, with Baruch Goldstein's grave site in its center (imagine a monument honoring a Nazi in Crown Heights!) This is the man who murdered 29 Arabs on February 25, 1994.

The well-manicured park has since become a shrine, visited daily by like-minded settlers. The agenda of this group could not be more clear. They hold five million Israelis

hostage to their unforgiving dark vision in a desperate effort to influence the path of history. What makes it even worse is that both Labor and Likud governments stood by silently and let this happen.

The extremists—the haters, the killers on both sides of the dispute—cannot be permitted to dominate the agenda. A large majority of Jews in Israel and abroad are embarrassed by such deeds. We should never forget that Israel was created as an answer to racism, bigotry and intolerance. We cannot allow ourselves to become part of what we oppose the most.

FRED HOWARD

Chairman, Givat Haviva Educational Foundation, Inc.

New York.

A SHAM

Sir, I was torn between laughing and crying when reading that Israel is seeking to import hazardous waste (Feb. 27). The Environment Ministry is assuring members of the Basel Convention that Israel has the same characteristics and capabilities as those highly industrialized and technologically advanced countries (OECD or EU.)

That is simply untrue. The Ramat Hovav site, one that was ostensibly under government management, is a major disaster waiting to happen, as EPA inspectors from the US pointed out. The decision to dump Tel Aviv garbage at Dudaia adjacent to Beersheba was based on no scientifically credible environmental assessment, nor was the Cross-Israel Highway project, nor most of our seashore development. And what about the Yarkon?

Indeed, we cannot even get ourselves organized to recycle domestic waste, such as paper, glass, plastics and tins, nor do we do any serious composting of garden wastes.

Our Environment Ministry continues to be a sham. It has neither the budget nor the political clout to deal with existing problems let alone massive amounts of highly toxic substances that it proposes to import from the OECD.

PROF. HARVEY LITHWICK

Negev Center for Regional Development

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Beersheba.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 11, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that Jews were put outside the law in Germany when Herr Goehring, the Chief of the Berlin Police, in a broadcast speech declared that he "refused to turn the police into a defence force for Jews."

50 years ago: On March 11,

1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that Jan Masaryk, Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, jumped to his death from the second-floor apartment window of the Czech Foreign Office in Cernin Palace in Prague. He had been lately worried and harassed. Masaryk was known as a great friend of Jews many of whom he had saved from the Nazis.

25 years ago: On March 11, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that security forces wiped out the three-man Command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Gaza, and with it the apparent source of the recently renewed terrorist activity in this area.

Alexander Zvielli

Jerusalem 1998

'Tali' still homeless in Ra'anana

The city seemed a perfect place for a school offering more Jewish studies than the general state system — till eager parents met a series of hurdles that has left them bitter and exhausted.

Allison Kaplan Sommer reports

To the enthusiastic group of parents that came together last fall their dream seemed natural, easy and attainable. They would create a Tali school in Ra'anana in which to enroll their children in the fall of 1998.

Six months and countless meetings, petitions, and phone calls later, they feel exhausted and disappointed by the emotional roller coaster. They question whether anything approaching their vision is within their grasp.

"I feel devastated by the experience and very, very frustrated," says Loretta Belick. Together with her husband Harvey she has been one of the driving forces behind the effort.

Their initial confidence stemmed from the fact that Ra'anana, with its large number of English-speaking residents, harmonious relations between religious and secular and reputation for cooperative citizen-friendly government seemed like a natural place for Tali, which offers an alternative to state and state religious education, being somewhere in between.

Created by the Masorti movement, Tali offers two more classroom hours a week of Jewish content than the general state schools. It seeks to create a comfortable atmosphere for those who want their children exposed to Judaism in a positive, non-coercive way.

Tali is not new. Today there are 12,000 children in the country enrolled in 35 Tali programs. In many municipalities, in fact, Tali has become an accepted part of the educational landscape.

UP TILL now, Ra'anana parents seeking to send their children to a Tali school have been putting them on a school bus to Hod Hasharon. The school in that town has served as a magnet for kids in the Sharon area for more than 15 years.

But last year, for the first time, Ra'anana parents expressed demand. Ra'anana children were turned away from Tali Hod Hasharon. The time had come, the Ra'anana parents concluded, for a local alternative.

The Belicks, former Australians, send their two children, first and second graders, to Tali Hod Hasharon.

"We have lived here for 10 years. We are Zionists, we are Israelis — but we are also Jews. We want our children to have a Jewish education even though we are not religious," says Harvey Belick.

Other Ra'anana parents who send their children to Tali Hod Hasharon have a similar ideological commitment.

Lisa Leizer says that although the commute to a school two towns away has been hard on her six-year-old, it has been worth it for her.

"I don't want my kids just to be fed information," she says. "I want them educated to be good human beings. We're not religious at all, but I feel it is vitally important for my kids to learn about their religion."

Shelley Simons, another parent, explains that while she grew up in a religious family, she and her husband are not Orthodox. Her husband is opposed to a religious

"The local school thought we were trying to indoctrinate their children. Some parents worried that if their kids saw my kids praying, they might want to do the same"
— Harvey Belick

school, yet she feels strongly about her children having a knowledge of Judaism and a respect for her own parents' lifestyle.

"I want them to have the knowledge and respect," says Simons, "but sending them to a religious school would be a problem. Their father doesn't wear a kippa, and I don't want them to feel pressure to be religious at home."

THE PARENTS' group started seriously organizing in September, when they held an open meeting for all Ra'anana parents interested in the idea. As a result of billboard notices, phone calls, networking and other publicity they drew up a list of 160 children, enough for 35 in each class in a school that went from kindergarten to grade four. Confident that numbers were on their side, they began to rally political support for their cause.

They were encouraged at their initial meeting in October with Mayor Zvi Kenig, a representative of the National Religious Party who is responsible for education in Ra'anana.

Belick recalls that Kenig assured them at the meeting: "You can have a school when you get approval from the Ministry of Education."

But within a few weeks the parents understood that they had been placed in a Catch-22 situation.

"The Education Ministry told us that they had the forms we need, but added that before they could begin the process of making us official they needed the address of our new school."

"We realized that there could be no school if there was no address, and no address if there was no school."

At that point the parents wrote to Bielski asking for help. Finally, in January, he responded in a meeting with 70 of the parents, reiterating his support for Tali but suggesting that, instead of creating an entirely new institution, the school be begun as a Tali "track" inside an existing elementary school. Each grade in the school would have a Tali class.

The parents, who believed that a separate school was necessary to make Tali truly work, were disappointed; but they decided that if they could have a guaranteed address they would take what they were being offered.

Bielski told them he already had a school in mind in which to create a Tali "track": Bar Tov, one of the local state elementary schools.

With high hopes, a delegation of Tali parents went to meet with the principal and members of the parents' committee. They quickly realized that they were viewed as intruders.

"They didn't really understand what we were," said Belick. "They thought we were religious people trying to indoctrinate their children. Some parents actually told me they were worried that if their kids saw my kids praying in the morning, they might want to do the same."

Crushed, the committee members came back and reported to the rest of the parents.

"Our sense had been that the mayor had laid the groundwork for us getting into this school, and that all we had to do was go and negotiate with the principal on the details. So it was very, very disappointing," said Leizer. "We really had thought that this school was where it was going to be. It was extremely upsetting when it became clear it wasn't going to work."

THE SENSE of being brushed aside worsened when Kenig informed the parents that next year only a Tali first grade would be created, serving as the nucleus of a



Harvey and Loretta Belick are among the leaders of a parents' struggle to establish a 'Tali' school in Ra'anana. "We want our children to have a Jewish education even though we are not religious."

(Gil Hadani)

'Prepare for a fight'

Parents who want to try to establish a Tali school in their city must be ready for a fight, says Emily Levy-Shochat, a member of the board of the Tali Fund and former chairperson of the national Tali parents' committee.

"In virtually every case creating Tali schools is a struggle. Traditionally parents have encountered resistance on the part of local authorities and the Ministry of Education, though today the ministry claims to support the expansion of the Tali system."

A common tactic, says Levy-Shochat, is to accuse Tali parents of elitism, painting them as snobs seeking to opt out of a more integrated school system.

"That argument is a straw man: In Hod Hasharon, Netanya, Ramat Gan and other towns we have opened schools in more disadvantaged neighborhoods. They have been open to any child whose family is open to our orientation."

"Usually," Levy-Shochat explains, "the reasons for resistance are connected to local planning and the use of resources in the communities, or to pressure from Orthodox elements who oppose Jewish education that isn't based on Orthodox principles and approach."

The recipe for success, she says, is "a group of dedicated parents with a clear concept of what they want and lots of stamina and perseverance." Then you need "helpful public officials who realize Tali's value to the community, with, preferably, a school principal who recognizes this as well, support from the Education Ministry — and a lot of good luck."

— A.K.S.

for more," says Loretta Belick.

The parents' committee is inclined to accept this deal, though not without great disappointment. Many of the parents who have lobbied most actively have third- and fourth-graders who will not be able to attend.

The Belicks are in a particularly difficult position: They have one child who will be in second grade next year and another who will be in third. Separating their children and sending one to Hod Hasharon and another to Ra'anana will be logistically and emotionally difficult.

THE ISSUE of a kindergarten is still unresolved. The parents' committee has a list of more than 50 children whose parents would like to send them to a Tali kindergarten.

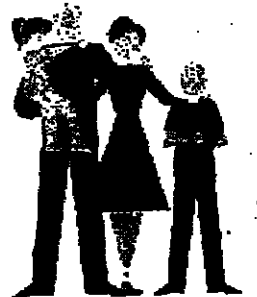
Kenig has told them that they may have a municipal facility only if, after registration, one is vacant or nearly vacant.

"What I hear the politicians saying is that we can have Tali if the principal and the parents of an existing school invite us and say, 'Come on in,' or if it's a school absolutely nobody wants to attend," concludes Loretta Belick. "They'd really like us to be quiet and go away, but we're not going anywhere."

"Basically they haven't been supportive since day one. Which is very, very upsetting because this is a city that really needs a school like this."

"We have a big population that wants a Tali school. If this is the official reaction, it doesn't say much for them."

Tolerance is what makes us human



By Ruth Mason

Intolerance is in the air and children absorb it like sponges. There is so much of it around — between Jews and Arabs, between Ashkenazim and Sephardim, between religious and secular.

How can we work against the prevailing atmosphere and teach our children tolerance?

Paula Green, Ph.D., psychologist, peace educator and founding director of the Karuna Center for Peace Building in Leverett, Massachusetts, was recently here to lead some workshops. She says:

Studies show that there are three areas in which children learn either tolerance or intolerance: home, school, and the media.

The globalization of trade and capital has globalized humanity. For the first time a generation of Israelis is growing up seeing Asian faces and black faces around them. This increasing diversity requires that we teach our children increasing tolerance, preparing them for the multi-culturalism of the 21st century. If we don't do it, we will be depriving them of the skills they'll need to cope in their world.

We aren't born with prejudices or stereotypes, but they develop very early on — as does the quest for identity, which is a strong human need. We can teach our children that other people's identities are just as interesting and

valuable as our own; and that, rather than fearing diversity, its positive aspects are something to welcome.

We can use home, school and media in a positive way. At home, as parents, we need to become sensitive to our own stereotypes, prejudices and intolerance and monitor our attitudes and behavior — because everything we do and say influences our children's ability to tolerate diversity.

Examples: You're stuck in traffic and the driver behind you won't take his hand off the horn. You curse under your breath and mutter something about "Israeli drivers." You see something on the television news and comment, "The Arabs can't be trusted." Or you remark how polite all Ethiopians are.

Each of these statements sends our children the message that an entire group of people can be fairly characterized — and before you know it they're well on their way to being prejudiced.

What we really need to do instead is teach about the dangers of generalization.

If a bomb goes off and we generalize the act to include all Arabs, we create stereotypes, fear and hatred.

Because Baruch Goldstein committed a massacre doesn't mean all settlers will do the same. Because Yigal Amir was religious, it doesn't mean all religious people share his attitudes. Likewise, we don't talk about "all" Russians, "all" Ethiopians, "all" secular people.

We need to try and teach discriminatory awareness, so that children will learn to respect a culture even when individuals in that culture behave in a deviant manner. Such people, after all, exist in all cultures. We should not be afraid to point this out.

Teaching tolerance is teaching humanization.

At home, do we speak kindly of Russian immigrants so that our children will develop kind attitudes toward them? When we talk about Ethiopians do we express compassion for their struggle to get here and understanding of their absorption problems?

Do our children see us doing good deeds for people who are different from ourselves — or do we relate only to those who are like us?

Who is welcome in our home? Whom do our children see sitting around our Shabbat table?

A step that goes beyond tolerance is teaching pro-social behavior — non-violent, non-hurtful and non-hateful.

It means taking a stand against bigotry and speaking out against racism. It means teaching your child to stand up against bullies when he sees a group picking on someone smaller or weaker.

The best way to do this is to be a model. If a friend tells a racial joke in your presence and, despite your discomfort, you point out that the joke is racist, your child will be likely to emulate you.

A few words about school and the media: Curricula have been developed to teach tolerance, and some Israeli schools are using them. If your school isn't, ask why.

Point out media biases to your children and look for toys and books that don't just portray white people.

Tolerance and intolerance are learned traits. If we fear differences, our children will too. If they see us standing up to intolerance, there's more of a chance they will.

Teaching tolerance is something parents need to take seriously. Surely as Jews, well acquainted with the effects of intolerance, we have an obligation to stand up against it in all its forms.

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DRIVE CAREFULLY! ARRIVE SAFELY!

Comer



By Batsheva Mink and David Brauner

Summer bedding plants seem to be getting shorter and shorter. It is as if plant breeders, like the high-tech boffins, are miniaturizing plants every year. Soon the only way to admire them will be from a crouching position.

We don't know about you, but we feel growing plants that are tall with an abundance of flowers, especially that can be cut, gives one a feeling of "getting your money's worth." And many taller growing plants take the same amount of time to grow and care for as shorter ones. So why not grow taller ones like the dahlia.

Many gardeners look on the glorious dahlia (Heb. *daliva'a*), with its thousands of cultivated varieties in all sizes and virtually all hues (except blue), as the answer to their dreams. These plants are extremely decorative, long-lasting and rewarding to grow, even if you don't consider yourself a gardener.

We'll never know on which Mexican hillside the wild dahlia first appeared. The Aztecs called the plant "acotli", meaning water pipe, because of the hollow stem. They apparently grew the plants for food: the dahlia tuber is full of nutrition, and would have been a valuable substitute for potatoes.

We do know that sometime after the conquest of Mexico (1520) the plant was first recorded by Francisco Hernandez, botanist to Philip II of Spain. Some 270 years later in 1789, dahlia seeds were sent from the Botanical Garden in Mexico City to Abbe (Father) Cavanilles, keeper of the Royal Botanical Garden in Madrid. Although the Spanish Abbe was the first to raise pink and red dahlias in Europe, he named the genus in honor of the Swedish botanist Dr. Andreas Dahl, a student of Linnaeus.

Dahlias first reached England in 1798, sent by the marchioness of Bute whose husband was British ambassador to Spain. But these soon perished and the plant had to be re-introduced by Lady Holland in 1804, the year that Napoleon became Emperor of France. It is said that Empress Josephine grew dahlias in her famous gardens at Malmaison near Paris.

By the 1830s the craze for this new flower was rapidly spreading throughout Europe and many new flower forms (hybrids) were being developed. Within a few years nearly every color we now admire had been introduced and the catalogues listed more than 800 varieties. The 19th century favorite was the ball-like pompon type. Today the cactus-type flower is most in favor with its dazzling plate-like blooms. Fashions

change but the popularity of this summer and autumn flower remains as strong as ever.

In Britain devotees have long claimed that only roses and chrysanthemums are more popular than the dahlia. A recent survey in England confirmed their claim. New tubers or rooted cuttings are purchased for about 3 million gardens every year.

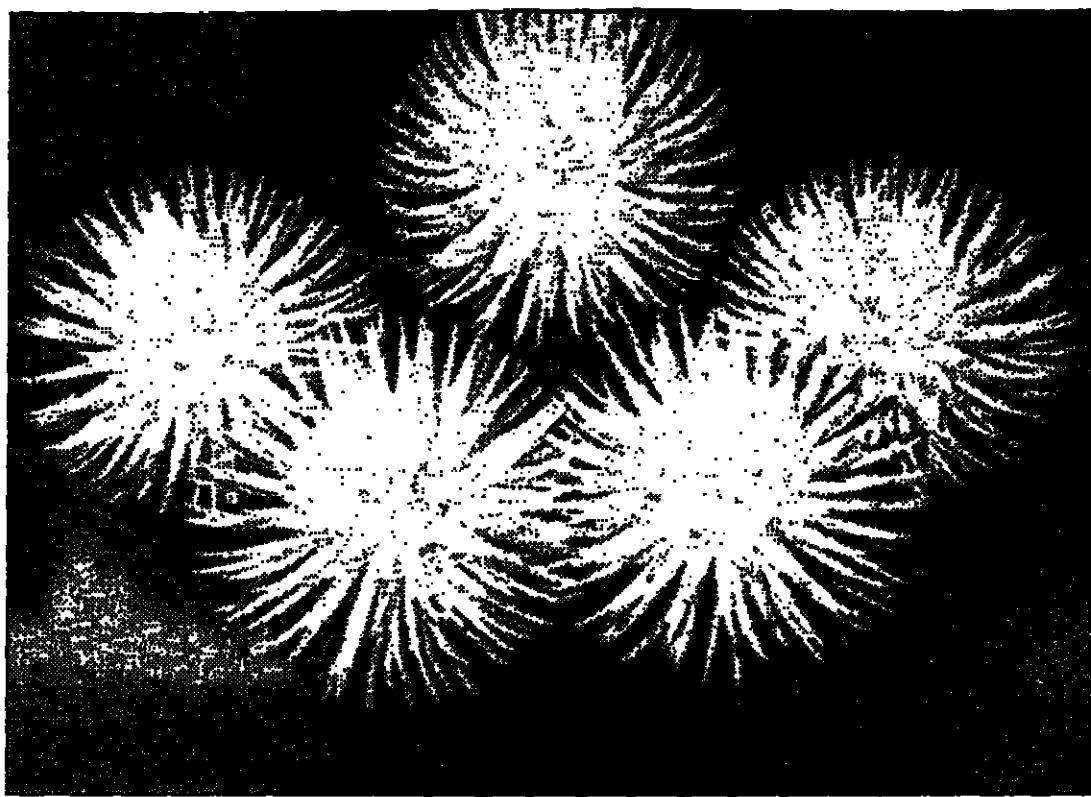
The dahlia owes its continuing popularity to several factors. First of all, the skill of the great breeders in Europe and America has produced a range of sizes and colors unmatched in the world of garden flowers. The plants can be anything from 25 cm. to two meters tall, which makes them ideal for both the garden and the window box. And dahlias come in a vast range of flower shapes and almost all the shades of the rainbow.

The dahlia has a very long flowering period from early summer to late fall. It is also a very accommodating plant. In well-prepared soil, it will thrive almost anywhere. It loves sunshine, but can do well in part shade. It will also put up with the novice gardener, for it is merely a matter of planting the tubers, staking, watering and feeding them. Even with such casual treatment a surprisingly healthy display can be obtained. Also, many gardeners consider the dahlia the answer to the late summer color gap, along with chrysanthemums and asters.

Although the elegant tall dahlias have been dwarfed over the years, the tall varieties, bred for garden beds, still exist. All the "cactus" dahlias (D. *juarezii*) are descendants of species indigenous to Mexico, and introduced to Europe in 1864. These tender, herbaceous (i.e., they do not form a persistent woody stem), branching perennials belong to the daisy family (Compositae), one of the largest families of flowering plants with 14,000 species. Many have typical composite (daisylike) flowers with a central disk surrounded by a ray of petals.

As we mentioned, they also have tuberous roots. A tuber is the swollen part of an underground stem (as a potato) or a thick root, as in dahlias. Like bulbs and corms, tubers have leaf scales, though often these are almost invisible. The main body is solid; where the plant stores its supply of food. It is often difficult to distinguish between a tuber and a corm. Anemone coronaria and cyclamens are usually sold as corms, though they are really tubers.

Dahlia flowers range from 5-35 cm. across. They come in all colors except turbo blue, and in many different flower forms from globes to radiating miniature suns. The ornamental qualities and range of sizes make this genus a valuable asset to the design of both large



All that height plus an abundance of colorful flowers gives a feeling of 'getting your money's worth.'



and small gardens.

Not all varieties are available here, but we have noticed a nice selection of imports, especially from Holland, in the shops now.

Soil and planting.

Dahlias are "heavy feeders," so before planting, turn the soil over and add plenty of compost. The planting season in Israel is from March onwards. Plant the dahlia tubers about 10cm deep and 60-70 cm. apart. For bushier growth pinch out (cut away) the center of each stalk when the plants reach 20 cm. Remember, dahlia stems are hollow pipes and can easily break in wind or by an accidental knock, so tie each stalk to a stake using soft twine or raffia.

Feeding and watering.

Feed your plants every two weeks with an all purpose (20-20-20) fertilizer. Like any other plant the dahlia is 95 percent water, so water twice a week after the rains stop. A shortage of water will impair growth and, eventually, the quality of the flowers.

Position and light.

Full sun is preferable, but no less than half a day's sun is required. If possible, a spot sheltered from strong winds is advisable.

Pests.

The dahlia's main enemy is the aphid which spreads the "mosaic" virus, which in turn stunts their growth. You can control aphids with a spray of soapy water made with dish-washing liquid or a pesticide. There is no cure for the virus other than to pull up and burn the infected plants. Slugs can be destroyed by slug pellets, beer

in a jar lid, or finely chopped egg shells around the young plants. To exterminate earwigs, a voracious night-eater, spray them, or see our "Tip of the week."

Diseases. Powdery mildew can also affect dahlias. This condition can be controlled with fungicides or prevented by insuring good air circulation between plants. Plants growing too close together are more prone to this problem.

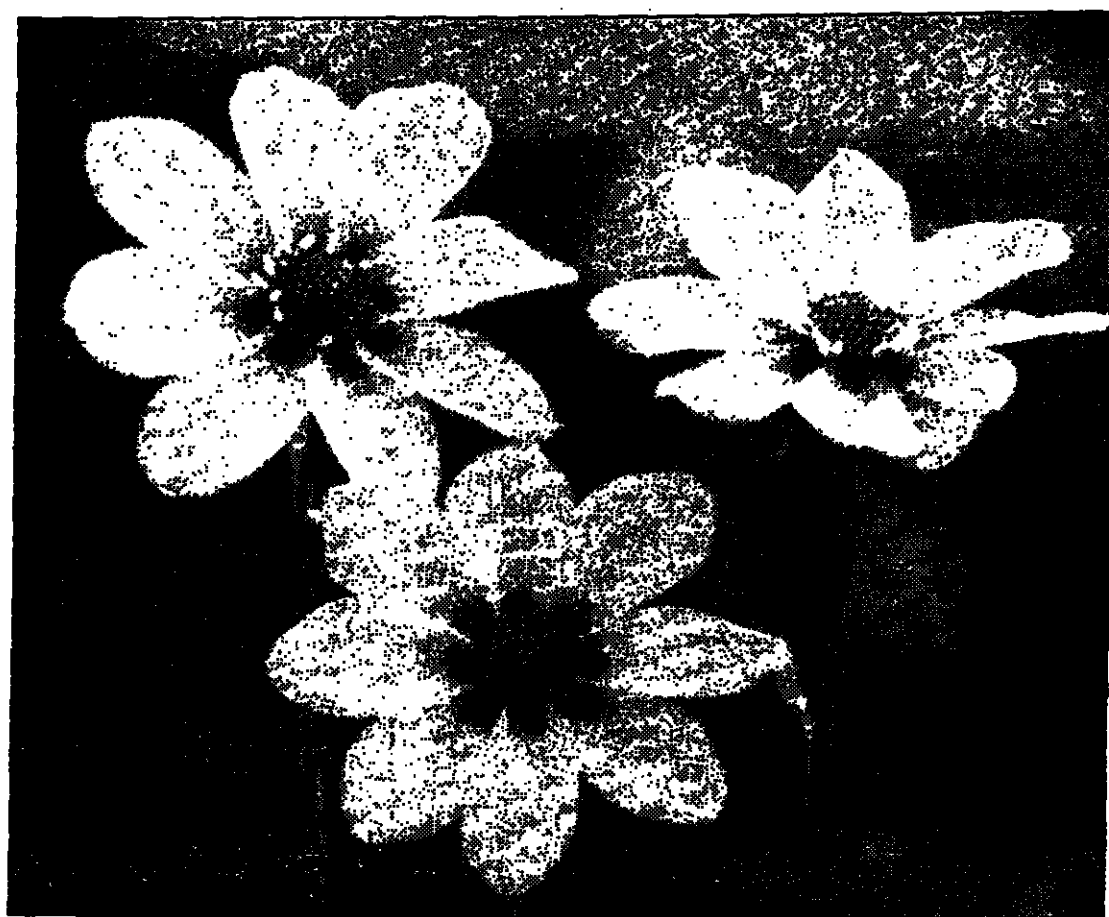
Propagation.

If your tubers send up many shoots, some of these can be used as cuttings. You must leave a small part of the tuber attached to the cutting, a method known as "heel cutting." Seeds can be saved, but do not be too surprised if the new plants are not identical to the parent plants.

End of season.

Dig up the tubers at the end of the growing season in fall, except in warmer regions. Usually you can tell the time to dig them up when flower production diminishes (as the days grow shorter), and their leaves start to shrivel and yellow. At this point they're ready for their dormant season. Cut off the tops (all green growth), leaving about 10 cm. of stem on the tuber. Store the tuber in dry peat moss until planting time again in spring.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morris@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line).



TIP OF THE WEEK

To exterminate earwigs organically, place small clay pots (plastic ones get blown away with the wind) on the top of a cane not more than 60 cm. high, and examine them often. You will find, as dahlia growers have for centuries, a collection of earwigs in each pot! This is because earwigs eat at night and hide during the day in a sheltered spot. Carry with you a tin or pail of hot water to drop them into.

Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

About three weeks ago a young couple who are regular readers of this column telephoned asking for advice. They told me they had just been given a German Shepherd puppy by a neighbor and had some questions.

In answer to my first question as to the age of the puppy, they said it was "almost five weeks old." When I told them that the puppy was far too young to be taken away from its mother and litter mates, they said, "Well, the owner said there were too many to handle, so we took it! After all, it wasn't nursing from the mother anymore."

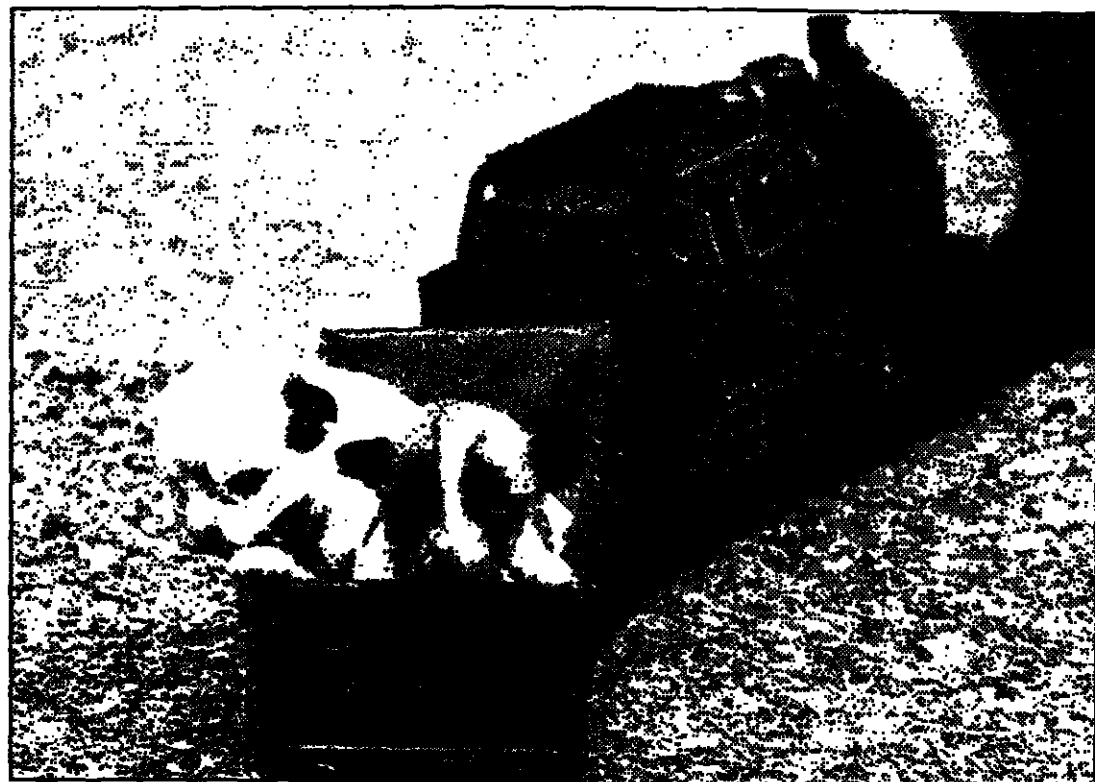
This was all said rather glibly as if the age of the puppy were only a minor detail.

Since then, they have been calling me every other day to tell me about their problems with the puppy. It bites their hands and legs and pulls at their clothing all the time. If left alone even for a moment, it begins to wail and moan and then tears up everything within reach. It will not let them sleep at night but scratches at their door and howls all night long.

Try as I might to explain that these behavioral "problems" are just a puppy that is too young to be taken out of the litter, they can't seem to understand.

At this age, the puppy should be engaging in rough-house play with its mother and litter mates. It could bite and tug at their fur to its heart's desire. It would also always be in the comforting presence of the others and would only gradually, at seven or eight weeks of age, be ready to start to transfer

Too early to be leaving Mom



A ride on a toy train is no compensation for maternal security and socializing with litter-mates. (Unipix)

its attention to people and also be ready to adapt to being left alone for a time.

It's really just a matter of maturity. But here we have a puppy that even after three weeks in a new home is not yet ready to be alone or to give up its infantile behavior. Under normal circumstances it would now be just about ready, but its early deprivation of maternal security and socialization with litter mates has retarded its development.

Certainly there is more to mothering than just supplying milk. Many bitches with large litters stop nursing when their young are at a fairly early age, but they are still there to provide security and comfort. The presence of litter mates is also important, for it gives the puppy an opportunity to learn the limits of its aggressive play. After all, a litter mate or even an annoyed bitch will snap right back, something that a human

companion cannot easily do.

As for the future of this poor pup, it is a matter of patience. As it grows up, it will be less dependent and will moderate some of its undesirable behavior. But it is highly unlikely that it will ever become the stable, well-adjusted animal that a dog of its breed was meant to be.

Chances are, yet another neurotic canine has been added to the population.

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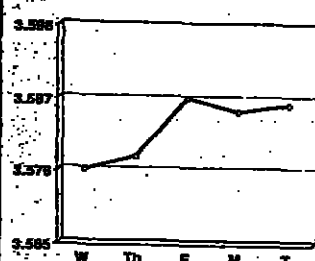
BUSINESS & FINANCE

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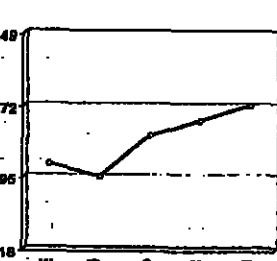
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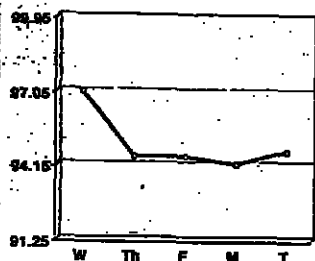


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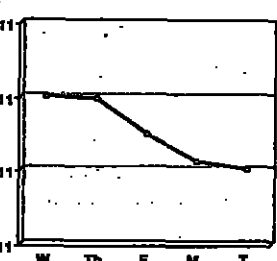
GOLD

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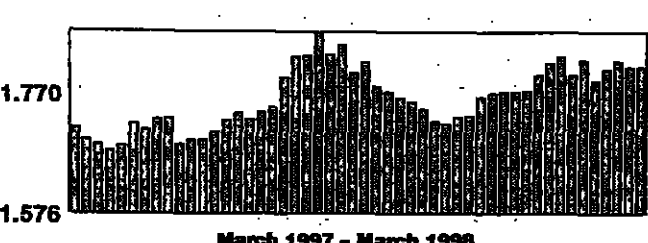


OIL

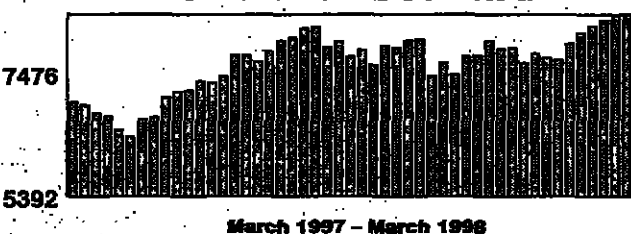
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Gas prequalification tender opens today

The prequalification tender for the supply of natural gas opens today, the National Infrastructure Ministry announced yesterday. Twenty-two domestic and foreign companies have purchased tender details.

The selection process is expected to take two months and will be conducted under the supervision of Price Waterhouse.

David Harris

3rd of Ra'anana workers employed in high tech

A third of the workforce in Ra'anana is employed in high-tech industry, Mayor Ze'ev Bielski told a conference on developing infrastructure and manpower in the high-tech industries yesterday.

He added that 8,000 residents could potentially work for the industry. In addition, over 70 percent of the town's high school pupils are studying in science and technology.

Dan Gerstenfeld

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Koor Industries' board of directors will determine the future of CEO Benny Gaon at its meeting tomorrow, a company spokesman said yesterday.

In a statement, the country's largest conglomerate said that at tomorrow's meeting, which will be headed by chairman Charles Bronfman, "a decision concerning changes in Koor's structure would be made." It is widely believed that Gaon will announce his resignation, taking effect in June. He is expected to be replaced by Jonathan Kolber, vice chairman of Koor and CEO of Claridge Israel.

Channel 2 reported last night that Gaon would be paid his salary through 2001, and that his severance pay could total NIS 20 million. Claridge, owned by Kolber and Bronfman, took control of Koor in July after it purchased 24 percent of the company from Shamrock Holdings for \$423 million. Since then, Claridge has increased its stake to 27.6% by buying shares on the open market.

Industry sources said that Gaon, whose contract runs through 2001, has a strained relationship with Kolber. According to the sources, Gaon, known for his "hands-on" style of management, isn't on best terms with Kolber, who insists on being directly involved in the company's management.

Last week, Kolber told journalists that he wants Koor trimmer in its management and to move its emphasis toward managing investments and away from oper-



Koor CEO Benny Gaon (right) and Claridge CEO Jonathan Kolber, in better times.

Ministers fail to decide on El Al sale

By DAVID HARRIS

The Ministerial Committee on Privatization yesterday failed to agree on a final plan to privatize El Al, according to committee secretary Arye Zohar.

The team, chaired by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, will reconvene in two weeks when it will discuss new proposals for the sale, added Zohar.

The principle differences of opinion were over Shabbat flights once the company is sold, according to those attending the meeting. Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party), not a member of the committee, expressed his outright opposition to Shabbat flights, a continuation of the policy laid down by his predecessor, Yitzhak Levy.

Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni said that it is imperative the Shabbat issue does not delay the sale.

"As a compromise, I suggested that we reduce the government's holding in El Al to 51 percent in the first instance, so the government can keep its options open," Livni said after the meeting. "This will put off the decision about Shabbat flights. The Transport Ministry agreed to consider this over the next few days."

The sale of 49% of shares would take place on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, according to Livni, who presented the committee with a report in October last year recommending the sale of the entire government holding on the bourse.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who was filling the seat of Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who is abroad.

Goldman Sachs to establish presence here

By DAVID HARRIS and DAN GERSTENFELD

Goldman Sachs & Co., the most profitable American investment bank, is in the process of establishing a presence in Israel, company spokesman David Woods told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

"We have a major new interest in emerging markets," said Woods who listed Eastern Europe, South Africa and the Middle East, including Israel, as the prime targets.

The company is not planning to open an office in Israel but has begun a recruitment drive here.

Goldman has already poached Daniel Carasso, head of Research at UBS Securities, which is considered the largest foreign investor on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. UBS is also the first overseas investment house to become a member of the TASE. The loss of Carasso is seen by industry sources as a major blow to UBS.

"Hiring researchers is very much part of the process," said Wood, who added that Carasso worked with Goldman for a decade from 1986. Carasso was recently voted Israel's top analyst by *Institutional Investor* magazine, for the second consecutive year.

Carasso is being joined at Goldman by his former UBS colleague, researcher Elan Zivotsky, who was previously employed by Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in New York.

"Goldman Sachs is clearly going to be the company to watch in '98," said one analyst. "The question is whether they will increase their interests in investment banking or market research. Investment banking certainly seems the likely option."

However, others are suggesting the hiring of Carasso, Zivotsky and Shane Bilton, a leading salesman from Lehman Brothers, tends to suggest Goldman will focus on research.

"We also have interest in investment banking in Israel and other new markets," confirmed Woods who said the company has "not been hugely active" until now. The company is about to open offices in Moscow and Johannesburg.

Earlier this month, IDB Holding Corporation announced that Robert Hurst, vice chairman of Goldman, will join its board of directors. A fortnight ago, the two completed the sale of 9.5 percent of IDB to the New York investment

house for NIS 282 million.

Peregrine's London-based Israel desk, however moved en masse across the City to Robert Fleming. This team is considered to be one of the most active here, and had turned Peregrine into the third largest foreign player in Israel, after UBS and ING Barings.

Recently it was ranked among foreign investors as the second most popular broker for the Israeli market, after the local firm Zannex Securities. Fleming's new team includes Stephen Levey, a former chief analyst of the Israel Fund and Gad Hacker, the former head of the international department at Ilanot Baucha Securities and Investments.

PG&E Corp. said it will manage more than \$2 billion in energy purchases for Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corp. over the course of a seven-year alliance designed to cut the refiner's energy costs.

PG&E will manage the electricity and natural gas purchases of Ultramar Diamond's plants in the US and Canada, and will build a 750-megawatt power plant on the site of Ultramar Diamond's refinery in Three Rivers, Texas.

Companies are negotiating national and regional energy service contracts as the US moves to open \$200 billion in annual electricity sales to competition. Ultramar Diamond said it expects the PG&E agreement to cut energy costs at its refineries, pipeline terminal and retail facilities by 15 to 25 percent.

"PG&E is such a huge company, they can go out and purchase things like natural gas for a lot cheaper than we can, and pass that savings on to us," said Anne Keever Cannon, an Ultramar

spokeswoman.

San Francisco-based PG&E, one of the largest US utilities with more than \$15 billion in annual revenue, has about 4.5 million electric customers and 3.7 million natural gas customers in northern and central California. It has entered into several high-profile agreements to provide energy to companies in California, including McDonald's Corp. restaurants and Safeway Inc. supermarkets.

San Antonio-based Ultramar Diamond, with about \$13 billion in annual revenue, is a refining and petroleum products company with refineries serving a network of convenience stores and service stations in Canada and the US.

The San Antonio-based refiner said it began about a year ago looking for ways to reduce energy costs, which are one of the highest operating expenses of a refinery. The company said it spends \$320 million a year on electricity and natural gas.

(Bloomberg)

Kitan to move more work to Jordan

By NINA GILBERT

Kitan Consolidated Ltd., the Tel Aviv-based textile and clothing manufacturer, lost NIS 36.1 million in 1997 and said that under its recovery plan it would continue to consolidate operations and move most of its sewing operations to Jordan and the territories.

The concern attributed its losses to a drop in local sales, restructuring costs, which totaled NIS 69.6 million, and the difficulties of Gabor-Sabrina, put under receivership last December. Kitan owns 50.3% of Gabor.

In 1996, the concern lost NIS 8.5m, whereas it had profits of NIS 54.8m in 1995. Sales also dropped last year to NIS 712m, compared with 765m, in 1996.

Kitan may continue to fire workers under cutbacks this year, "but the large-scale layoffs have more or less been completed with the closure of big departments," company financial director Yehiel Yeshua said.

During 1998, Kitan said it would take further efficiency measures in production lines for Kitan and subsidiary Tango. Last year, Kitan fired 400 workers in its Nazareth plant and this year, it plans to unite the operations of its subsidiary Tango, now operating in Yarka, Nazareth and Beit She'an, into one factory, probably in Yarka.

Tango, which produces Levi's and T-shirts, may also establish a joint venture in Jordan, Yeshua said. At present, Kitan has no plans to open a factory in Jordan, as the work there is subcontracted to large sewing houses.

The company said it is aiming to produce higher quality products that have a higher added value, due to competition in the labor-intensive industry. The concern sells mostly to the local market.

This year, the Golf-Kitan chain is to sell Benetton clothing, after winning an exclusive contract for the franchise in Israel.

U. Diamond, PG&E form \$2b. energy alliance

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(Bloomberg)

Moshe Leon: Job creation cheaper in small businesses

By LIAT COLLINS

The government is interested in promoting small businesses.

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There are 150,000 small businesses in the country, according to lobby head MK Yuri Siem (Yisrael Ba'Aliya).

The caucus presented a NIS 44 million program to help promote small businesses and train the unemployed for entrepreneurship. Leon said in the coming weeks government guarantees for small businesses in peripheral areas would be raised from 80 percent to 90% to 95%.

He also said the Directors-General Committee on Unemployment, which he heads,

would shortly hold a meeting on aid to small businesses.

The chairman of Small Businesses Authority, Avigdor Yitzhaki, said the authority needs more money. He also said the money devoted to small business and should be concentrated in one body. He called for better coordination between the different ministries and bodies handling money for small businesses.

Leon said he does not think it is realistic for the government to increase its budget to the authority this year. He said the Industry and Trade Ministry should be more supportive of the authority in talks with the Finance Ministry.

Siem said if the government ignores the distress of thousands of small businesses this will cause mammoth unemployment.

When giving advice, it pays to have all the details.



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Wishing everyone a Happy Purim

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Dancing with Wolves

FA Cup quarter final weekends are generally for the romantic type. For First Division Wolves, who saw off Premiership Leeds, the script was all romance with two of the unlikely actors cast as heroes.

Don Goodman, the winning goal scorer was born in Leeds and supported the team as a boy, while goalkeeper Hans Segers, recently acquitted from the infamous match-fixing scandal, kept his nerve in only his second start of the season to save Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's late penalty and earn his team their first semi-final slot in 18 years.

No wonder Sunday's papers had a field day with permutations of Hans - "Safe Hans," "With These Hans" ad infinitum. Wanderers will play either West Ham or Arsenal after the teams' 1-1 draw on Sunday.

IT wasn't a classic, but never mind - there's always something off the pitch to keep people amused in and around Highbury these days. Last week it was the largely middle-class residents of the area up in arms about the club's proposal to extend the stadium's capacity, which may mean a number of compulsory purchase orders.

And on Sunday, it was the sight of the finest of London's constabulary marching in force into the lower section of the North Bank seating area to randomly eject fans who had the audacity to stand up during the game.

Watching Arsenal can be frustrating at the best of times, so when a chap has a spontaneous feeling of glory as Lee Dixon takes aim from 30 meters, he can be excused for leaping from his seat. The fact that with Dixon and co. the ball ends up in Row Z is not accepted as

extenuating circumstances by the police, they simply move in and eject.

The matter has become so controversial at Old Trafford, where whole sections of fans are standing throughout Manchester United's games, that there has actually been discussion around the re-introduction of terracing.

ASIDE from Wolves, the First Division pennant was kept proudly flying by Sheffield United, whose 1-1 draw at Coventry has set up an intriguing replay next week at Bramall Lane.

Sheffield's performance was all the more creditable given the activity within the club in the week leading to Saturday's game.

On Monday of last week, player-manager Nigel Spackman resigned after complaining that the club, which had recently floated on the stock market, forced him to sell his best players to bolster the books.

Interestingly, Spackman stayed on as a player.

On Tuesday, unpopular chairman Mike McDonald resigned, and guess who appeared on the vacant managerial short-list by Wednesday? Yes, the aforementioned Spackman, who by Sunday morning was favorite to occupy the seat he had vacated a week earlier. But there was a final twist to the extraordinary tale when on Monday, the depleted Sheffield board appointed Steve Thompson as manager until the end of the season.

Steve who? For the tie, Sheffield had caretaker manager Thompson in charge and you just knew it was going to be his

day. This is a guy who suffered a traumatic reaction after playing in the game of the Bradford fire in 1985 in which over 50 people were killed, was in an elevator which plummeted down a shaft, and survived a plane crash.

So being sent to Coventry in the Cup was never going to be too stressful. "I'm just glad I'm here to tell the story," Thompson said after the game.

ONE man for whom the pressure became too much was Birmingham City manager Trevor Francis who sensationally resigned on Saturday after his team had beaten Queens Park Rangers 1-0 to move into seventh place in Division One and in sight of the play-offs.

Francis was incensed that his son Matthew had been verbally abused by drunken fans in one of the VIP suites in Birmingham's stadium. But by Monday, Francis was close to being reinstated after reconsidering his decision, and yesterday he stepped back into his office and sat down at his desk.

All of which leads to the radio wars and football phone-ins, the fans' opportunity to air their views on the issues on and off the pitch.

In the old days, Saturdays would officially end at 6 p.m. after BBC Radio's Sports Report program in which the results, match reports and banter would be digested with a pot of tea. But in the modern era, where ratings are seemingly more important than results, football fans are able to continue for another hour and a half as the public and private airwaves battle it out for the 6-7 p.m. slot.

For money war read phone-in war as David Mellor (BBC Radio Five Live) and Danny Baker (Talk Radio UK) play host to fans phoning in for a rant.

Mellor, a former Minister under Margaret Thatcher, has jumped on his recent football-popularity bandwagon to head the present government's task force whose brief is to recommend changes in the game to benefit fans.

His friendly banter makes him appear as the fans' fan, but there are voices of dissent, particularly aimed at Mellor's occasional switch to a fake cockney accent which makes him sound like the working-class man in the street.

The type of chap phoning in is usually on a mobile stuck in a traffic jam on the way back from a game and it's all quite low-key.

Cue Danny Baker, whose show is fast filling the void of real-life controversy that Mellor leaves well alone. Baker is a former BBC phone-in host who lost his rag with a producer on-air last year culminating in him describing Southampton and England midfielder Matt Le Tissier as a "lazy bastard."

Now hosting the Talk Radio slot, the football world is a great big oyster, and Baker appears to be determined to dip in as deep as possible to dredge out the most sensational stuff.

Take last Saturday. The first half of Mellor's show was made up of ecstatic Wolves' fans. Tune in to Baker and what do we get? An anonymous caller saying he had been with a friend to a gay bar in London and had been approached by a Premiership player. "You'd recognize the name immediately, but I'm not allowed to say," yes, Baker is eating into Mellor's ratings.

England rugby row resolved

LONDON (Reuters) - England's Rugby Football Union (RFU) agreed a truce with the country's leading clubs yesterday when Northampton decided to release their players for international duty.

Northampton owner Keith Barwell last week instructed his squad, who include England's British Lions trio of Paul Grayson, Matt Dawson and Tim Rodber, to rest this northern summer instead of touring with England.

England coach Clive Woodward reacted by telling a news conference on Monday that all members of his squad would have to announce their availability this week or face expulsion from the England side.

"This is not club versus country," Woodward said. "If they don't want to play for England they can go away and play for their clubs and I'll find someone else."

Yesterday, Northampton director of rugby Ian McGeechan said the club would make their players available for England again.

England's next match is against Scotland at Murrayfield on March 22.

"We as a club are not prepared to allow our players to be isolated in this manner," McGeechan said. "I would fully expect them to be in the England squad."

England are scheduled to play New Zealand in two Tests on June 20 and June 27, in between international matches against Australia on June 7 and South Africa on July 4.

The prospect of a weakened England team touring the world's major rugby nations caused consternation in Australia and New Zealand, who with South Africa sent their best sides on tours of the northern hemisphere at the end of 1997.

The Australian Rugby Union demanded the International Rugby Board (IRB) ensure both England and Scotland sent full-strength teams to Australia this year.

SPORTS

in brief

Caesarea golf

The monthly medal competition at the Caesarea Golf Club was divided into three divisions.

Mike Bannister won the A division with 74 strokes, followed by Ron Sandler on 75 and Nate Solsky on 76.

The B division ended with three players all on 70 but the better back nine system sealed the victory for Norma Kaufman with Yair Keren second and Izzy Rozenberg in third place.

Winning the C division was Shlomo Ferman with 72 with Malca Geri second with 73 and octogenarian Shlomo Chelouché third at 74.

After three rounds of the Coca-Cola league, Kfar Sava lead with 20 points. Kfar Shmaryahu are second with 18 and Ramat Gan lag behind on 6.

Heather Chait

Liverpool ready to sell Berger

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) - Czech international Patrik Berger has been told he can leave Liverpool if a club can match the £4 million asking price.

Berger refused to sit on the bench for Saturday's premier league win over Bolton, prompting Liverpool boss Roy Evans to offer the midfielder for sale.

Evans said: "I have talked it over with Patrik and we have decided to let him go. I only want people here that are committed to the club and willing to play."

Newcastle sign Greek defender Dabizas

NEWCASTLE (Reuters) - Greek international Nicos Dabizas yesterday joined English premier league side Newcastle from Olympiakos for £2 million.

Dabizas, 24, signed a four-year contract with Kenny Dalglish's side and is eligible to make his debut in next Saturday's league game against Coventry at St James' Park.

Jacquet to leave France job after World Cup

PARIS (Reuters) - Aime Jacquet will step down as France's coach after the World Cup.

"On July 13, I will bid farewell to the French team after a last lap of honor, the day before in the Stade de France. After France's victory," he was quoted as saying by soccer weekly *France Football*.

"When I accepted the job, I told the French Federation president I would prepare and win the World Cup and afterwards I would be finished with high level competition." Jacquet said former France's midfielder Alain Giresse, currently in charge of first division Toulouse, would be an ideal choice as his replacement.

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VEHICLES

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VEHICLES

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA celebrates Purim with a Viennese Ball, in which Peter Guth leads the orchestra in Viennese popular selections by members of the Strauss family and other composers. An evening of lots of fun with soprano Izabella Labuda adding some operetta arias into the program. Tonight and tomorrow at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem (8:30) with a preview lecture an hour earlier.

Also in Jerusalem tonight (8 at the King David Hotel) local music lovers will be able to enjoy a very special Purim banquet with members of the Jerusalem Consort playing music by Salomone de Rossi and his contemporaries.

JAZZ

HELEN KAYE

The museum New York jazz club series continues with the Loston Harris Trio - pianist Loston Harris, bassist Reginald Veal and Clarence Pen on drums - in their salute to Sweet Basil. They're all young, all regulars in the New York jazz scene and all proteges of the Marsalis dynasty. Veal played with Wynton Marsalis in the latter's Pulitzer Prize-winning opera, *Blood on the Fields*.

The trio plays jazz standards, Coltrane, Tatum as well as works by Harris. Sweet Basil is in Greenwich Village. Tonight at the Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem at 8:30 and in the Tel Aviv Museum tomorrow at 9 p.m.

PURIM

HELEN KAYE

The Habarna Carnival Parade is tonight at 6:30 and 8:30 on the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall in Jerusalem.

In Tel Aviv, comedian Shmuel Vilosny suggests that you Get Your Moshes Ready, an evening of stand-up comedy in Hebrew at the Diaspora Museum on the Tel Aviv University campus, tonight at 9.



Comedian Shmuel Vilosny celebrates Purim tonight in Tel Aviv.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

**** WAG THE DOG — It's less than two weeks before the presidential election and the Big He himself has been accused by an underage "firedy girl" of sexual harassment. Ace spin doctor Conrad Breem (Robert DeNiro) is called in by the White House to do something, and fast. So he jets to L.A. and hires a suntanned and successful Hollywood producer, played with hilarious brio by Dustin Hoffman, to help the Powers that Be distract the public by manufacturing a war against Albania - a war, that is, that will never take place, except where it really counts, on the TV screens of America's voters.

Director Barry Levinson's smart-bomb of a political satire manages to be at once extremely funny and deeply disturbing in its portrayal of Washington as the greatest show-biz town on earth. The movie is slight, in its cynical way, but it stings. David Mamet and Hilary Henkin wrote the nimble script. With Anne Heche and Willie Nelson. (Parental guidance strongly advised.)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News flash

8:51 News in Arabic

8:56 Good Morning Israel

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roundup

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisScharf
calls on
Stelmach
for help

By ORI LEWIS

Shlomo Scharf made a surprise move yesterday when he called on all-time great player Nahum Stelmach to assist him in preparing the national soccer team for the upcoming European Championship qualifying campaign.

Scharf made his decision on Monday night after his regular assistant, national under-21 team coach Yitzhak Shum said he would not be able to discharge his duties with the national team as well.

Stelmach, a living legend in local terms, was Israel's leading marksman when he captained the side as a striker in the 1950s.

He had a particularly lethal header, which on countless occasions proved a match winner either for the national team or for his club, Hapoel Petah Tikva, with whom he won the league title six times in the 'fifties and early 'sixties.

Shum has preferred to concentrate solely on the under-21 side, who will play in an Olympic qualifying group concurrently with the national team.

The under-21 side has recently seen a fresh intake of young players, meaning Shum will have to start molding them as a unit almost from scratch.

Although there was no defined role for him as Scharf's No. 2, Stelmach told Israel Radio last night that he would help in any way he could to further Israel's cause.

"I've come to help out, I'll do whatever I'm told to do," said Stelmach, who currently coaches one of the national junior sides.

There is no time to be lost, however. Stelmach's first job will be to help inspire the team in the upcoming friendly against Romania in Bucharest next Wednesday.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER - Results last night:
Division one: Sunderland 1, Birmingham 1.
Division two: Bristol Rovers 1, York 2.
Division three: Doncaster 1, Scarborough 2.

Johansson tipped for FIFA presidency

By KAREN ILEY

LONDON (Reuters) - UEFA president Lennart Johansson is poised to become the most powerful figure in world football, the president of FIFA, according to a Reuters poll of leading sports journalists published yesterday.

But most of the 57 journalists predicted a two-horse race with FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter expected to show his hand at an extraordinary general meeting of the executive committee of world soccer's governing body on Friday.

"Johansson has a lot of experience as UEFA president and he also has the understanding and vision for international football. He's the best choice," said Ralph Dury, soccer writer at *Sport Informations Dienst* (SID) in Germany.

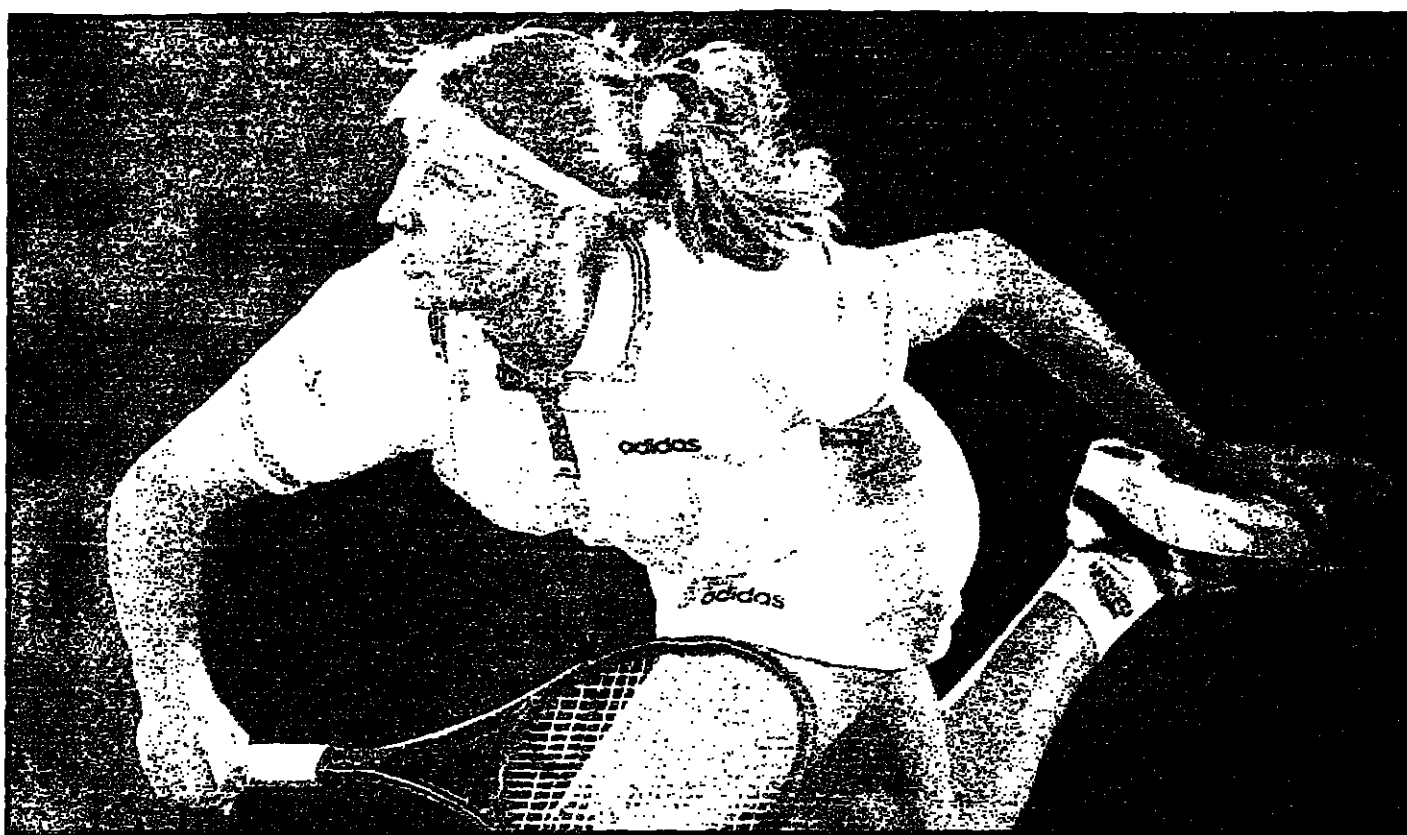
Two-thirds of journalists in the poll expected FIFA to choose the Swedish president of Europe's ruling soccer body as successor to Joao Havelange, Havelange, a Brazilian, is retiring in June after 24 years in soccer's top job.

Johansson has the backing of both UEFA and the African Football Confederation (CAF), despite making a racist joke in South Africa two years ago. Brazil's Pele has also said that 60-year-old Johansson is the only man with the capacity to replace Havelange.

"He has support in the various confederations and he will receive the most number of votes," said Arild Sandven, soccer correspondent at *Aftenposten*, a Norwegian daily newspaper.

But less than 40 percent of those surveyed said they would plump for the Swede if they could decide for themselves.

Aurelian Brebeanu, editor-in-chief of *Gazeta Sporturilor* - a daily sports newspaper in Romania - agreed Johansson was the most likely FIFA choice but he was one of 10



A champion is back (in top form)

Former world No. 1 Steffi Graf and reigning teen queen of women's tennis Martina Hingis posted devastating third-round victories in the Evert Cup on Monday. Hingis annihilated German Meike Babel 6-2, 6-0 in 51 minutes, while Graf needed just 43 minutes to destroy 11th seed Ai Sugiyama of Japan 6-0, 6-1. The popular 17-year-old Hingis has found herself in the unusual position of playing to a less than full house while fans have flocked to adore the 28-year-old Graf, who recently returned to the tour after being sidelined for nine months following knee surgery. Graf expressed some concern that she is still favoring her left leg while running on court, but there was no evidence of that as she chased down balls against the 17th-ranked Sugiyama. "I can be faster," Graf said. "I still have room for improvement but I anticipated the ball very well tonight," she added. At the men's ATP event in Indian Wells, California, Andre Agassi was right back to work posting a first-round victory just 24 hours after winning his second tournament of the year. Agassi, who won the Scottsdale final on Sunday beat 34th-ranked Todd Woodbridge of Australia 7-6, 6-4 to show he is also back to top form. Austrian Thomas Muster, another former world No. 1 who, like Agassi, is unseeded, also safely moved into the second round. The 20th-ranked Muster, a semi-finalist in the event last year, posted a 6-4, 6-4 victory over 35th-ranked American Chris Woodruff.

(Reuters)

FIFA outlaws all
tackles from behind

PARIS (Reuters) - FIFA yesterday told coaches and referees that all tackles from behind should be punished with a red card at the World Cup finals.

"All tackling from behind is considered to endanger the physical integrity of the opponent, so no tackling from behind will be tolerated by FIFA," the world body's general secretary Sepp Blatter said.

"Officially from July 1, but effectively from the kick-off of the World Cup finals on June 10, all tackles from behind will be sanctioned by a red card everywhere on the field of play," he told a news conference at the end of FIFA's World Cup workshop with the 32 finalists.

The International Football Association Board, the game's law-making body, passed an amendment to Law 12 on fouls and misconduct at a meeting last month.

The amendment designates the tackle from behind as serious foul play and therefore a sending-off offence.

However, referees at the workshop wondered whether the tackle had physically to endanger a player for the tackler to be sent off.

Coaches and referees at the workshop asked for clarification of the new ruling, and Blatter told them that all tackles from behind should receive red cards.

"It's impossible for the referee to see if a tackle is dangerous or not because all tackles from behind put in danger the physical integrity of the opponent," he said.

At the 1994 World Cup FIFA also tried to persuade referees to send players off for tackles from behind, but considerable confusion ensued over what constituted a sending-off offence.

In another amendment to the rules, FIFA said it would follow the method used by Italy's Serie A in deciding the amount of injury time referees will add to the end of matches in the World Cup finals.

"Referees must indicate to the bench how many minutes they are going to add for injuries, time wasting, substitutions," Blatter said.

"This will also be an indication to the public of how much (playing) time there is left," Blatter said the referee would add 30 seconds per substitution, therefore three minutes in total if both teams make all three of their permitted changes.

"For an injury they will add one minute and in the case of extreme injury the effective time," he said.

Rangers
to let
Gazza go

GLASGOW (Reuters) - Glasgow Rangers yesterday agreed to part with their wayward England midfielder Paul Gascoigne.

Crystal Palace, bottom of the English premier league also confirmed they were in negotiations to sign the 30-year-old international.

But Gascoigne's agent, Mel Stein, insisted talk of a transfer was "preliminary".

Palace are believed to have agreed a £3 million fee with the Scottish champions.

Now the decision is up to the injury-prone Gascoigne. He has played just one full game all year and missed Rangers' 0-0 home draw against Dundee in the Scottish Cup quarter-final on Monday with a calf strain.

Palace director Mark Goldberg confirmed the south London club had made inquiries about signing Gascoigne, who moved to the Scottish champions from Italian club Lazio for £4.3 million in July 1995. But he said it was too early to give more details.

South Africa crush Pakistan
to draw Test series 1-1

PORT ELIZABETH (Reuters) - Fanie de Villiers, with his last ball in Test cricket, fired South Africa to a crushing 259-run victory in the third and final Test against Pakistan to level the series 1-1.

Pace bowler De Villiers finished off the Pakistan innings when he bowled Shoaib Akhtar after just 25 minutes of the final day.

Pakistan resumed in the hopeless position of 120 for seven, chasing 394 for victory. Off the fifth ball of the morning Allan Donald found Waqar Younis' outside edge and Mark Boucher took a record-breaking catch.

The 21-year-old wicketkeeper claimed a share of predecessor Dave Richardson's South African record of nine dismissals in a Test match but broke his record of 17 in a three-Test series.

Donald had Azhar Mahmood (41) caught at square leg, hooking, in his next over before Hansie Cronje brought veteran de Villiers back.

The 33-year-old yorked Shoaib Akhtar to finish with figures of two for 25 and eight for 48 in the match. Donald claimed four for 27 for a match haul of eight for 74.

The first Test was drawn in Johannesburg and Pakistan won the second Test by 29 runs in Durban.

Pakistan captain Rashid Latif pointed to the devastating fast bowling of Donald as the key factor.

"When he reduced us to 29 for four in the first innings we never recovered. He was the difference...he is a very fine bowler," Latif said.

"When the second day was washed out I think we relaxed because we thought the game would be a draw. Then Donald hit us on the third morning and we never recovered," Latif admitted.

India win Madras Test as
spinners wreck Australia

MADRAS (Reuters) - Anil Kumble and Venkatapathy Raju, helped by a string of controversial umpiring decisions, spun India to a resounding 179-run victory over Australia in the first Test yesterday.

Chasing a victory target of 348, Australia were all out for 168 after slumping to 96 for seven at lunch.

Leg spinner Kumble took four for 46 to return match figures of eight for 149. Left-arm spinner Raju bagged three wickets for 31 on a turning pitch.

Australia were incensed by the dismissals of Mark Waugh, Paul Reiffel and Steve Waugh who were all unlucky to be given out caught.

"I don't believe that umpiring can decide the fate of the matches," said captain Mark Taylor.

"According to the international laws of the game I have to accept the umpire's verdict. But I leave it to you all to judge," he said.

Australia were saved from greater embarrassment by leg spinner Shane Warne who gave vent to his frustration at the cavalier treatment of his

bowling by Sachin Tendulkar on Monday by hitting 35 off 52 balls.

India had declared their second innings at 418 for four on Monday after Australia scored 328 in reply to India's first innings total of 257.

Australia lost Mark Waugh on 18 in the morning, caught at forward short-leg by Rahul Dravid off Kumble. Television replays showed the ball beating the bat and ballooning off the pad.

Waugh stood in disbelief for a moment before walking away dejectedly after the decision by Indian umpire Srinivas Venkatraghavan.

Paul Reiffel, in a similar decision, was caught at slip by Mohammed Azharuddin as he padded up to a delivery from Raju that turned away. Reiffel stood and stared at English umpire George Sharp after being given out.

Ricky Ponting lasted barely seven balls before he was trapped leg before wicket by Raju for two.

Steve Waugh, who appeared keen to go on the attack, struck four

boundaries in his 27 and then stepped out to turn a flighted ball from Raju and was beaten.

He saw Dravid take a catch that went from near his pad in another decision by Sharp.

Tendulkar won the man of the match award for his unbeaten 155 that turned the match in India's favor.

"It is a good win with good teamwork," Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin said. "Our spinners bowled well under hot and humid conditions. It was a crucial toss to win."

"Tendulkar played a great knock," he said.

Following their success, India announced an unchanged team for the second Test of the three-match series in Calcutta, starting March 18.

Team: Mohammed Azharuddin (captain), Navjot Singh, Nayan Mongia, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Anil Kumble, Rajesh Chauhan, Ravindra Singh, Venkatapathy Raju.

Caddick may be recalled for 5th Test tomorrow

BRIDGETOWN (Reuters) - Pace bowler Andrew Caddick is likely to replace slow left-arm Phil Tufnell in England's team for the fifth Test against West Indies.

Selectors meet today to pick the team for the match starting tomorrow, and they will not follow the example of the West Indies selectors and change the opening partnership.

England captain Michael Atherton and Alec Stewart have had stands of 4, 26, 91, 5, 129, 1 and 7 in the Test series so far.

The option to use Stewart as a wicketkeeper and to drop Jack Russell has also been ruled out, sources close to the team said.

The reintroduction of New Zealand-born Caddick and the dropping of Tufnell are the only likely changes to the side beaten by 230 runs in the fourth Test in Guyana, they said.

West Indies lead the series 2-1 with two Tests remaining.

Caddick played in the first three Tests, taking seven wickets, but was left out of the fourth Test so that England could play two spinners.

Tufnell has taken only five wickets in four Tests while

Robert Croft, the off-spinner who came into the side for the Guyana game, finished with six wickets in the match.

West Indies have dropped openers Stuart Williams and Sherwin Campbell and brought in Barbados captain Philo Wallace and veteran Clayton Lambert in their place.

They are also expected to replace all-rounder Jimmy Adams with another Barbados batsman, Roland Holder, who has made two centuries against England during the tour.

Holder was in the 13 for the fourth Test but left out of the final team. West Indies players were due to fly into Barbados yesterday while England were given a day off following their drawn game against the island side.

Teams: West Indies (from): Brian Lara (captain), Philo Wallace, Clayton Lambert, Carl Hooper, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Jimmy Adams, Roland Holder, David Williams, Ian Bishop, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Nixon McLean, Dinanath Ramnarine.

England (probable squad): Mike Atherton (captain), Alec Stewart, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, Jack Russell, Robert Croft, Andrew Caddick, Dean Headley, Angus Fraser, Phil Tufnell.